Macapagal OKs move to sack Ping's chief aide

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2001 ★★ 68 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 234 ₱15

Terrorists turn golfers

PHNOM PENH—Reflecting Cambodia's conversion to peace, many former leaders of the Khmer Rouge who once terrorized the

TERRORISTS/ A5

PLAY GOLF, NOT WAR!

Bing: I only heard Mike received bribe

VALHANDUMON

THAT SINKING feeling for SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas though he declares during a press conference Tuesday that he does not intend to resign.

Powell urges RP to resolve Basilan crisis

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell has urged the Philippine government to resolve the protracted hostage crisis in Basilan involving two Americans and 17 Filipinos.

Powell raised the two-month-old crisis with Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona at a meeting last week on the sidelines of a regional conference in Vietnam, Agence France Presse quoted Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja as saying yesterday.

Washington "hopes the Philippine government will be able to resolve the hostage crisis as soon as possible," Powell told Guingona.

According to Baja, Powell also made an appeal to the Abu Sayyaf to free American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and the Filipino hostages, and Guingona assured the US official that the military was continuing to track the kidnappers and doing its best to secure the captives.

Before the meeting ended, Powell again reminded Guingona about the Burnhams, Baja said.

POWELL/ A6

GMA may seal peace deal with MILF in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippine government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front have made progress on peace talks in Malaysia and may seal a deal in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit next week, the chief MILF negotiator yesterday said.

Al-haj Murad, who is also the top MILF military commander, said negotiators meeting in Malaysia since last week had hammered out important details on security aspects of an agreement to end decades of fighting in Mindanao.

"There are more issues resolved than unresolved on the security aspect of the agreement," Murad told The Associated Press by telephone.

"I am optimistic we can have an agreement when the President is in Malaysia," he added.

Ms Macapagal is scheduled to arrive in Ma-

GMA/ A6

SSS chief to be axed

SOCIAL Security System president and chief executive officer Vitaliano Nañagas II will be removed from his post anytime today or tomorrow, a highly placed source in Malacañang disclosed yesterday.

The source, who spoke on condition on anonymity, said the embattled SSS chief would be moved to another post to placate the agency's employees who had been demanding his ouster on the ground of "poor management style."

Nañagas, who is said to enjoy the support of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, said at a press conference yesterday in Quezon City that he had done no disservice to the 23 million SSS members and would not bow to the pressure posed by the agency's workers and executives.

"I will not resign," he said. But he added that he was serving at the pleasure of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and that unless she replaced him, he would continue to serve the government as head of the SSS.

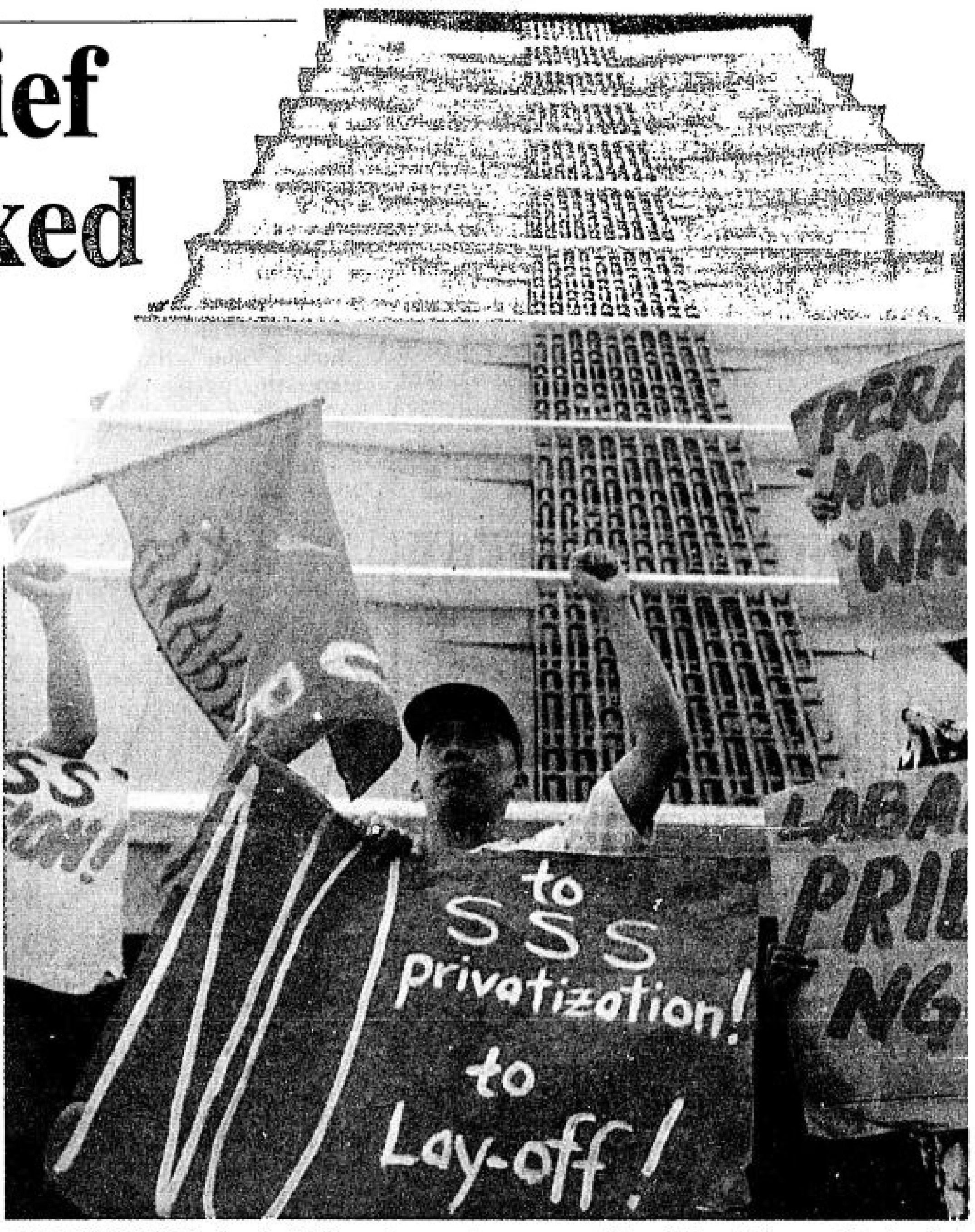
Members of the Alert and Concerned Employees for a Better SSS (or Access) had been engaged in protest actions since May to seek Nañagas' replacement.

On Monday, they walked out of the SSS central office in Quezon City and other offices nationwide and said they would continue their protests until the President heeded their demand. A number of SSS executives, including executive vice president Horace Templo, said they were in support of the union's action.

"My question to the union leadership is: Why did they keep silent during the previous administration, when it was making questionable investments with SSS funds resulting in billions of pesos in losses?" Nañagas said at the press conference.

He said an independent audit-

SSS/ A18


to SSS privatization! to Lay-off!

THAT TOWERING feeling for SSS employees who are now within striking distance of having their demand for the ouster of their big boss finally heeded by Malacañang. VALHANDUMON

Arroyo's accuser clarifies statement

BY MARTIN MARFIL AND CATHY YAMSUAN

THE ACCUSER of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband clarified last night that she merely heard from somebody that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had received bribes from two telecommunication firms which were denied congressional franchises through a presidential veto.

"What I said was '*napag-alaman ko* (I learned from someone),' referring to the fact that what I said about Mike Arroyo was only what was told to me by another source," Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo said in a statement read by her brother Ramon "Boogie" Rodrigo, a prosecutor of Caloocan City, on ABS-CBN news channel (ANC) last night.

Bing Rodrigo resigned as correspondence secretary of the President, her elementary and high school classmate, after Arroyo alluded to her as having received money allegedly in exchange for

BING/ A19

Gloria OKs move to sack Lacson aide

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has given the go signal for the Philippine National Police to initiate dismissal proceedings against controversial police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

Aquino, an aide of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when the latter was still with the PNP, had been Awol (absent without leave) for more than 30 days.

The INQUIRER got hold of copies of two documents, one of which gave presidential authority for the PNP to conduct administrative proceedings against Aquino for his unauthorized absences.

Under Memorandum Circular No. 96-010 of the National Police Commission, police officers from the rank of senior superintendent and higher whose appointments are made by the President can be investigated only upon prior clearance from the President.

This prompted the PNP last May 18 to seek clearance from Ms Macapagal.

The President granted the clearance on July 25.

Aquino, the former chief of operations of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), had been on "floating" status since April when the PAOCTF was disbanded.

GLORIA/ A5

200 Goma supporters hold rally

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

SOME 200 supporters of actor Richard Gomez yesterday stormed the gates of the Commission on Elections in Manila to demand the resignation of Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and protest the disqualification of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) as a winning party-list group.

"Better if we declare a failure of elections. That will be better for all of us," said Gomez, a former Estrada adviser on youth affairs and MAD first nominee.

Gomez was joined by placard-bearing protesters, a number of whom came in sandals, shorts and *sando*.

It was learned that most of the protesters came from the Parola Compound, an urban poor settlement in Tondo.

Seen alongside Gomez atop a red pickup, which served as a stage, was Ronald Lumbao, president of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP). The group supplied the warm bodies to the pro-Estrada "Edsa Tres" rallies and the assault on Malacañang on May 1.

Gomez blamed the Comelec for failing to thoroughly screen party-list groups before the May 14 elections.

MAD was among the 17 of the top 24 party-list groups, which the Comelec said did not meet the qualifications set by the Supreme Court for the party-list system.

"The Comelec accredited us based on the requirements we submitted and allowed us to run (in the party-list elections) and it's now saying that we are disqualified? That's bad!" Gomez said.

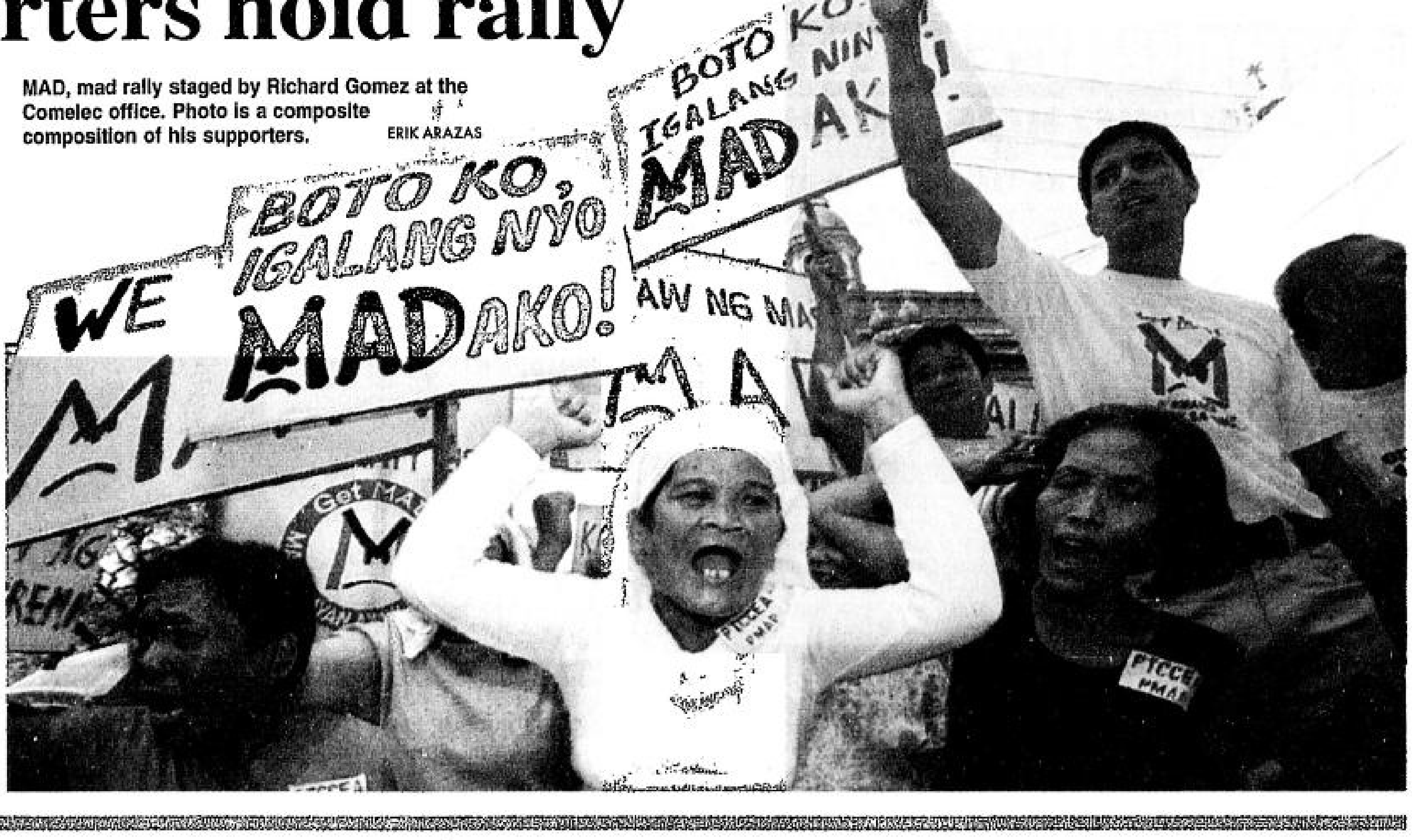
"The Comelec duped not only MAD but the 1.4 million Filipinos who voted for us," Gomez said.

Gomez said the eight-point guideline issued by the high tribunal on June 26 on the qualifications of party-list groups should take effect only in the next party-list elections in 2004.

"We feel that the guidelines

200/ A18

MAD, mad rally staged by Richard Gomez at the Comelec office. Photo is a composite composition of his supporters. ERIK ARAZAS


BOTO KO, IGALANG NYO MAD AKO!
WE
BOTO KO IGALANG NINYO MAD AKO!

Second FRONT PAGE

PWEDENG-PWEDE!

Lacson threatens to sue Inquirer, Tulfo for libel

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday denied allegations that he was facing charges of money laundering before US courts after having been caught twice by US customs authorities.

In a news briefing, Lacson said he was also filing a libel case against the INQUIRER for its continued publication of "lies" written by columnist Ramon Tulfo, who had linked Lacson to alleged killings, money-laundering and other crimes.

"I've written the INQUIRER and they have thus far tolerated what their... columnist is doing. So, I don't think I have any other choice but to include the editors, the publishers" in the charges, he said.

"I'll see to it that he lands in jail," he said.

Lacson said it was easy for Tulfo to check on federal records in the US.

"I will even give him transportation expenses to go to New York to check." He added that if Tulfo fails to produce anything, he should resign from the INQUIRER.

"I've never been arrested," he said. He also denied Tulfo's claim that he has substantial bank deposits in the US.

"They've gone to the extent of accusing me of having accumulated $500 million in bank accounts in the US," he said. "If they can find even a million dollars there, then they can have it."

"I don't have a bank account anywhere in the world, except the Philippines," he said.

"I'm amazed at how he can lie so blatantly. Who are behind Tulfo?" he asked.

He also accused Tulfo of using his influence to write off his debts at the sequestered Channel 9 television station and was given a program by its board chair Dante Ang, the President's publicist.

But Tulfo denied the charges.

He also denied having his debts at Channel 9 written off, saying he had paid them slowly and had managed to reduce the P1 million debt to P300,000.

"I'm not one to run away from debts," he said, adding that he incurred the debts from sponsors who did not pay for their advertisements.

He said he welcomes the filing of the libel case so that the truth in his charges against Lacson will come out.

"He was a criminal masquerading as a policeman and now a senator," he said

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DECS image improving, says survey

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FOR A CHANGE, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is on top of a survey that has nothing to do with corruption in government.

The DECS ranked second as the best performing government agency under the Macapagal administration, next only to the Department of Budget and Management.

It was also the fifth best performing agency, according to the July survey commissioned by the Makati Business Club among its member executives.

The DECS' showing in the few months following the Edsa 2 uprising that toppled the Estrada administration was a drastic change from its prior image as one of the country's most corrupt bureaucracy.

The DECS garnered a net satisfaction rating of 26.5 percent from last year's minus 40.2 percent under the management of former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez.

The rating jumped 66.7 percent, the biggest change in survey standing after the DBM under Emily Boncodin, which registered a net satisfaction rating of 39.7 percent from minus 60.8 last year.

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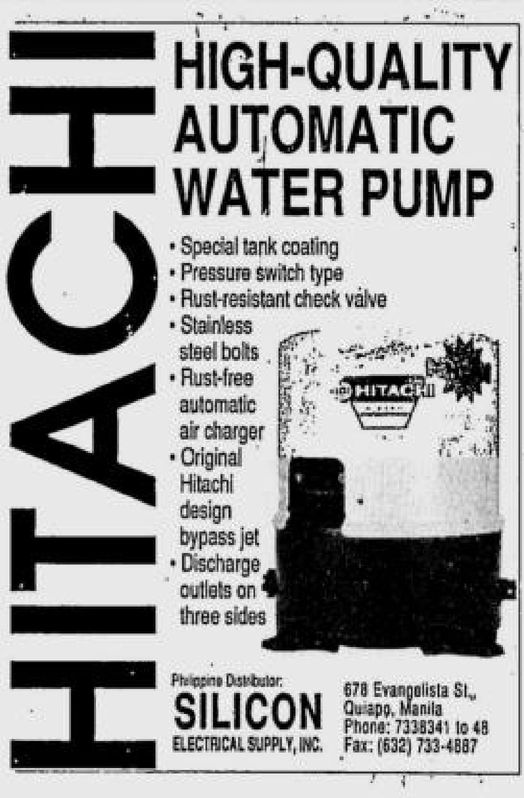
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No rule bars Villar posting, experts say

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THERE is no legal obstacle to Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar's chairing a Senate committee, parliamentary experts said yesterday.

A Senate president pro tempore is not barred by the rules from chairing a committee and previous holders of the post had also simultaneously chaired committees, said the Senate parliamentary counseling service.

Thus it upheld the Senate majority coalition's nomination of Villar to head the committee on agriculture and food.

The Senate parliamentary counseling service sent this legal opinion to Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday, a day after the Senate minority moved to block Villar's nomination to chair the committee.

Legal opinion

Armed with this legal opinion, Drilon said the majority coalition would push for Villar's nomination.

"Legislative history is on our side and we will explain this to the minority," Drilon told reporters.

Villar said he would follow whatever the majority coalition decides.

"That is how the game is played," Villar told reporters.

The matter, however, was not taken up in yesterday's Senate session.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said she agreed to the request of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Edgardo Angara to defer discussions of the committee chairmanship nominations as the minority still has to meet on the matter.

"*Palalamigin muna* (They will let emotions die down) was how they termed it," Legarda said.

The senator said she had intended to raise the nominations issue yesterday and even call for a vote. But there was also a need to reach out to the minority, she said.

Pimentel had opposed Villar's nomination to the agriculture committee, claiming that Senate rules made certain Senate officers, including the Senate president pro tempore, ex-officio members of all committees, thus barring them from chairing any Senate committee.

But in a four-page legal opinion yesterday, the Senate parliamentary counseling service said no provisions in the Senate rules prohibited a Senate president pro tempore from holding committee chairmanships.

Precedents

It said Rule 20 makes certain Senate officers members of all the permanent committees by virtue of their position, "but this does not contain any prohibition against making the Senate officers chairman of any of these committees."

It cited precedents from past congresses in which Senate president pro tempores were elected chairs of committees:

- Senate President Pro Tempore Lorenzo Sumulong was chair of the committee on foreign relations, and a member of the Electoral Tribunal, on Jan.21, 1966.
- Senate President Pro Tempore Camilo Osias was chair of the committee on banks, corporations and franchises, on Feb.2, 1967.
- Senate President Pro Tempore Sotero Laurel was chair of the committee on government corporations and public enterprises, on July 31, 1987.
- Senate President Pro Tempore Ernesto Maceda was chair of the committee on accountability of public officers and investigation.
- Sen. Leticia Shahani, the chair of the committees on education, arts and culture, and demography and family welfare, was elected president pro tempore on July 26, 1993.
- Sen. Blas Ople was elected Senate president pro tempore and, upon the motion of Sen. Francisco Tatad, without suspension of the rules, was elected chair of the foreign relations committee, on Oct. 10, 1996.
- In 1999, Sen. John Osmeña was elected Senate president pro tempore as well as chair of the finance and energy committees.

The Senate parliamentary counseling service said that a Senate president pro tempore may be elected as chair of any of the committees except for the rules committee as the rules provide that this should be held by the Senate majority leader.

Double standard

It said that since the Senate rules do not prohibit the election of a Senate president pro tempore as chair of a committee or committees may be made by a majority vote.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan accused the minority of derailing the reorganization in the Senate by blocking Villar's nomination.

He said the minority was employing a double standard when they knew Ople was president pro tempore and chair of the foreign relations committee in the preceding congress.

Pangilinan appealed to the minority to change their stance.

"Only fools don't change their minds," he said, adding that the majority coalition could always opt to call for a voting on the issue and was likely to win because it had the numbers.

Pimentel agreed that the majority coalition can always "vote us down because they have the numbers."

"If they want to overrule us by voting, fine. Let them do that. We are trying to establish a principle that anything that we should do, we should follow the rules. Otherwise, what is to prevent the majority from doing something, maybe even passing legislation in disregard of the rules? That is not right," he said.

Cebu leaders unite vs Abu trial

CEBU CITY—Government and business leaders in Cebu yesterday forged a "united front" to oppose the Supreme Court ruling transferring to Cebu the trial of 34 suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

Sen. John Osmeña filed before the high tribunal yesterday a motion for reconsideration of its July 26 decision ordering the transfer of the trial venue from Zamboanga City to Cebu City.

A separate "united manifestation" is expected to be transmitted today to the Supreme Court by Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and other government and business leaders.

The manifestation will be supported by resolutions from the Cebu provincial board and from the city councils of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu; and a position paper from the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Governor Garcia said the manifestation would focus on three points: the security problem and the lack of an adequate detention facility for the Abu Sayyaf suspects; and the negative impact on tourism and investments should the trial be held in Cebu City.

Cebu City Mayor Osmeña, who earlier said he was amenable to holding the trial here, decided to join those who opposed it to show solidarity.

Cebu City Rep. Raoul del Mar also expressed his objection in a privilege speech at the House of Representatives yesterday.

Del Mar said Cebu could handle the security requirements but it cannot be expected to risk its reputation as a peaceful region and its hard-earned economic gains "which are crucial to the province's survival, particularly in these hard times."

Senator Osmeña cited the same grounds used by Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat when she petitioned the high court to move the trial away from her city.

Lobregat had argued that holding the trial in Zamboanga would adversely affect the economy and peace and order situation of the city.

Senator Osmeña informed the court that the recent kidnapping of an 11-year-old schoolboy already disturbed the calm in Cebu City.

"The planned transfer of the trial proceedings involving the Abu Sayyaf group will further unnerve the Cebuanos and adversely affect business conditions, especially the tourism industry," the senator's six-page petition read. ***Rianne C. Tecson, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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PNP needs ₱6B for ex-cops' pension

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE CASH-STRAPPED Philippine National Police needs almost P6 billion to cover the pensions and retirement pay of thousands of its retirees.

PNP Director for Comptrollership Director General Reynaldo Velasco told reporters on Monday the force needs P5.9 billion to pay retired police officers.

"We have a real problem looking for the funds. So it is natural that the pensions and retirement pay are delayed," Velasco said.

He said that none of those who have retired since 1998 have received their retirement pay and pension. Included in the list are former PNP chiefs Roberto Lastimoso and Sen. Panfilo Lacson and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Velasco said the PNP paid out to its retirees P702 million in the first six months of 2000 and P2 billion in the first half of this year. But this did not make a dent in their present obligations, he said.

Velasco said the Department of Budget and Management is set to release P2.2 billion to the PNP to pay the retirees. This would still leave a shortfall of some P3.7 billion, however, he noted.

Velasco said the PNP was tapping all available sources to help ease the backlog, including the Mutual Personnel Benefit Fund of the government from which it was drawing P400 million.

This would still not be enough, Velasco said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently approved the release of P1.45 billion as a supplementary budget for PNP operations and salaries.

Part of the money, Velasco said, would be used to pay the pensioners but this would only settle present accounts.

ERAP PERJURY CASE

Ombudsman suffers new setback

By Donna S. Cueto

THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday suffered another setback in the Sandiganbayan, which ruled against its motion to consolidate the perjury case with the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

In a 21-page resolution, the anti-graft court's 1st Division said there was "no justification" to consolidate the two cases.

The resolution also pointed to several holes in the Ombudsman's charge sheet or information, including the prosecution's failure to specify the amount for which Estrada was being held accountable in the perjury case.

"Under the circumstances, it is clear that there is nothing in the Information that will hold the accused accountable for any unstated amount in the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth as required under R.A. No. 6713," the court said.

Motion to inhibit

The ruling prompted Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to file a motion to inhibit the 1st Division, headed by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena yesterday, from hearing the case.

The division had earlier rejected the Ombudsman's move to amend for the third time the information in the perjury case that would have allowed the prosecution to include at least 51 other corporations allegedly linked to Estrada in the case.

Desierto, in his "motion to inhibit," claimed that the court had already "prejudged the case at bar."

He said that when the court ordered the deletion of the "e.g." (short for the Latin "for example") in the information, it had limited the prosecution from presenting more evidence against Estrada.

Only five Estrada-linked corporations have been included in the information for perjury. The Ombudsman wanted to restore the "e.g." in the information, which was deleted before arraignment, so that he could introduce evidence on at least 51 other firms in which Estrada allegedly had holdings.

Desierto said that the prosecution even submitted 67 documents as evidence to prove Estrada's links to the 51 corporations.

Equivalent to acquittal

"The delimitation made by this 1st Division of this honorable court on what the People's evidence should be is equivalent to an acquittal of the accused at this early stage of the proceedings of the case at bar," the Ombudsman's motion said.

He said the division should therefore inhibit itself from handling the case.

But the court rapped the Ombudsman for insisting on an "open-ended" information.

"If a judicial proceeding must be anything, it must be fair. An open-ended information is not fair," it said.

Gloria buying media–Lacson

By A. Nocum

THE MACAPAGAL administration is courting media persons for their support by giving them board seats in government corporations.

This was revealed by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson who said that this was aimed at propping up the image of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the 2004 presidential election.

"They're all focused on 2004. There's no sense of purpose anymore. There's no sense of direction," he said in a news briefing.

"Media people are occupying key government corporations. I won't mention names anymore, but you see board of directors of government corporations filled with media people," he said.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Lacson said he can come up with a list of media persons who were appointed to these posts.

He said they reportedly earn P30,000 per board meetings, which can take place about two times a month.

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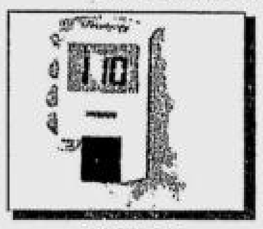

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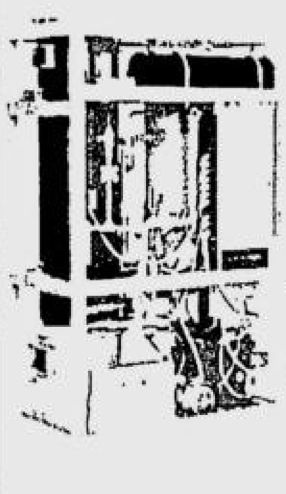

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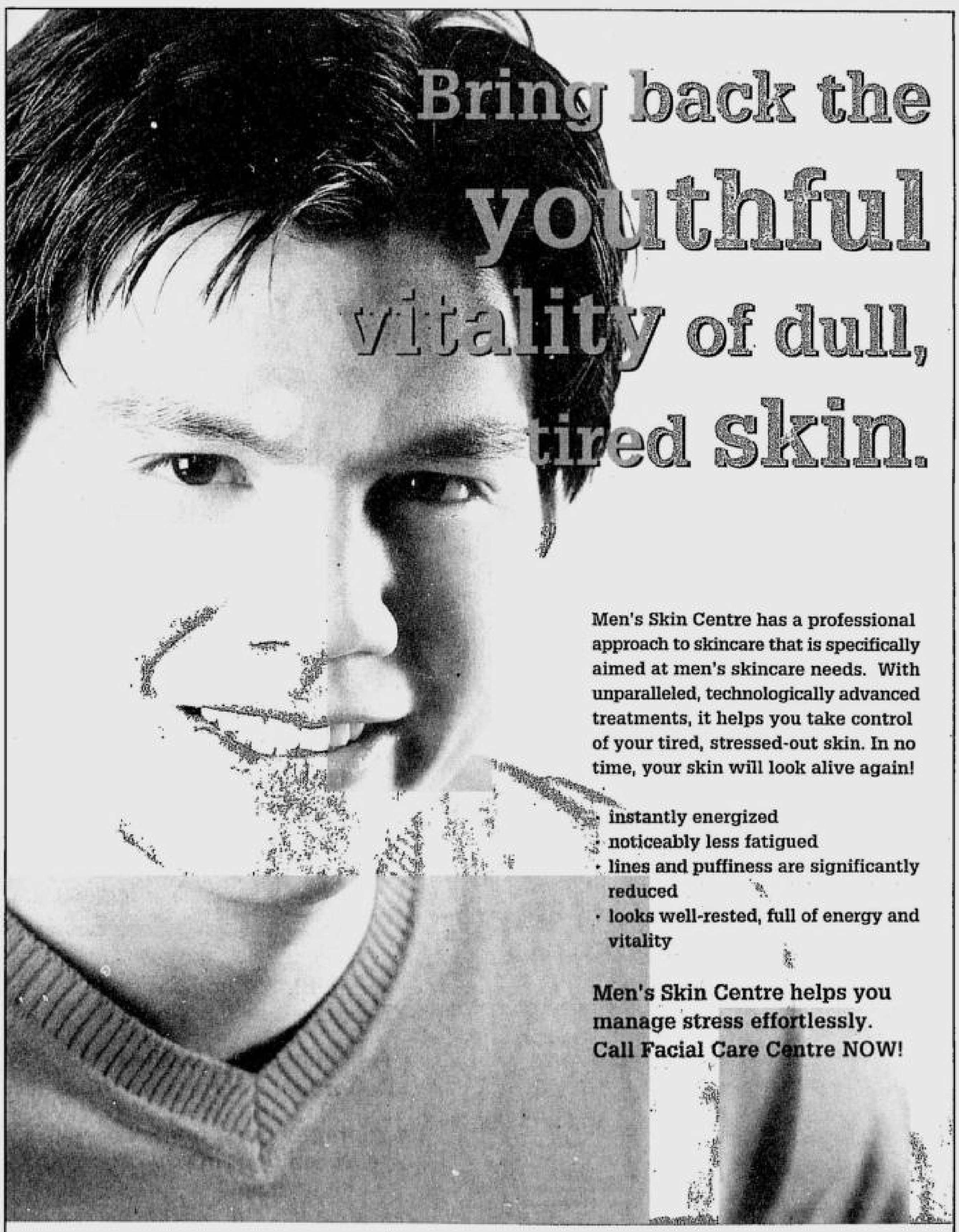
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STATE OF MILD ERUPTION

Mayon quiets down

LEGAZPI CITY—Mayon Volcano, with a mighty roar, spluttered a few small fountains of flames yesterday, but was relatively calm after a huge eruption last week.

Mayon was in a "state of mild eruption," said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which observed intensified activity during the latest monitoring period.

Phivolcs said Mayon's quiet stage may be in preparation for another explosion, with low frequency volcanic tremors recorded, indicating that magma was slowly rising to the surface.

Volcanologists noted a "vigorous ejection of incandescent rock fragments" as well as "continuous jetting and roaring sounds" from the crater, said Dr. Ernesto Corpuz, Phivolcs chief of monitoring.

He said this affected only a limited area, confined within the six-kilometer radius permanent danger zone and up to 7 km on the volcano's southeastern slope.

But he said this situation could mobilize the more unstable fresh volcanic debris, some 15 million metric tons, up Mayon's slope into landslides and avalanches.

"These could happen even without heavy rainfall, as confirmed by the latest aerial survey we made," Corpuz said.

The highest alert level, No. 5, remained in effect yesterday, with authorities restricting entry to 6 to 7 km danger zone.

People living in areas not directly threatened by further eruptions were being asked to return home to free up evacuation camps swollen with nearly 47,000 people, provincial disaster official Cedric Daep said.

The government erected tents in other evacuation centers while some evacuees built makeshift shelters of their own using bamboo poles and leaves as walls and roofing.

One girl died of rabies at an evacuation center, but Daep said this was unrelated to the hard conditions in the camps.

Meanwhile, provincial authorities have moved to stem the loss in livestock as a result of Mayon's eruption, which significantly decreased the livestock population of Albay province.

Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara yesterday ordered the provincial veterinary office to rescue remaining livestock and other large animals to prevent further losses.

Provincial veterinarian Jose Losa said his office was still documenting the precise number of livestock lost and those still remaining.

Losa said the cattle and carabao population of at least 31 villages within the permanent danger zone was the most affected because of the loss of vegetation and contamination of the water by volcanic debris.

He said those animals that survived were being fed with concentrates and supplements.

The feeding project is being undertaken by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, The National Dairy Authority and the local government units of Guinobatan town and the cities of Legazpi, Ligao and Tabaco. ***Roly Embile, PDI southern Luzon Bureau with a report from AFP***

Galang, noted artist; 56

MARCIANO "Mars" Galang, noted Filipino artist, died on Monday at 11:25 p.m. at the Medical Center Parañaque. He was 56.

He is survived by his wife, Josefina, and his daughters Celine and Anne. His body lies in estate at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel on Sucat Road, Parañaque. Interment is on Friday at 10 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park on Sucat Road.

Galang studied fine arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He started his career in art with his abstract expressionist paintings in the 1960s—with street-found discarded objects, like shoes sewn into the canvas.

He later moved to hard-edge paintings on wood and surrealistic landscape scenes of the Sucat area in the 1970s near his home on Sucat Road.

Galang is the fourth child of Zoilo M. Galang, the pioneer Filipino writer who wrote the first Filipino novel in English, A Child of Sorrow, and editor of the 20-volume Encyclopedia of the Philippines.

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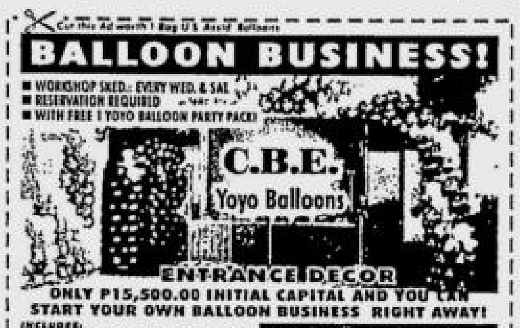

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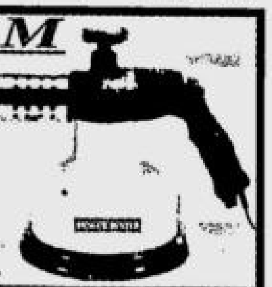

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Gloria OKs PNP . . .

(From page A1)

Efforts by the INQUIRER yesterday to get Aquino's reaction were futile.

Aquino, a 1988 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, was quickly promoted several times when he joined Lacson at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PACC), which was headed by then Vice President Joseph Estrada.

The task force was credited with numerous anti-crime "successes" like the disbandment of the dreaded kidnap for ransom gang Red Scorpion Group under Joey de Leon.

But the group had also been accused of involvement in several controversial cases including the Kuratong Baleleng rubout wherein 11 suspected members of the robbery gang were killed in 1995 during an alleged shootout in Quezon City.

Aquino and another Lacson aide, Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, are facing investigation by the justice department in connection with the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

They were linked to the crime by another PAOCTF officer, Supt. Glenn Dumlao, who claimed he overheard Aquino and Mancao discuss the plan to take Dacer.

Aquino, together with Lacson and several other police officers, was also recently charged before the Office of the Ombudsman with drug trafficking, murder, kidnapping, serious illegal detention and wire-tapping. The charges were filed by Mary Ong, a Hong Kong anti-narcotics agent who was also a former PAOCTF informant.

Last May, two Hong Kong nationals came to the country to file kidnapping and murder charges against Aquino and another PAOCTF officer. The two Hong Kong residents said it was Aquino who negotiated with them for the release of their loved ones who were kidnapped separately in 1998 and 1999. They said that in both occasions, Aquino demanded HK$5 million but they could only come up with a smaller amount. Their kidnapped relatives were never found.

Aquino was also allegedly one of the principal instigators of the violent May 1 attack on Malacañang.

He was also accused of campaigning for Lacson for the May senatorial election.

Aquino had made himself very scarce to media despite the deluge of cases against him.

On April 16, he called a press conference after news reports said he was being implicated in the Dacer-Corbito murders. Aquino accused investigators of framing him.

Since that press conference, Aquino has remained silent.

Yesterday, there were some radio reports that Aquino had already fled the country. But the Bureau of Immigration said it had no record of his supposed departure. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

RAY

Terror leaders turn golfers

(From page A1)

country have traded in their weapons for golf clubs, Prime Minister Hun Sen told a group of teachers late Monday in Phnom Penh.

The premier boasted about negotiating deals with the Khmer Rouge that finally brought a close to the country's long simmering civil war in 1998.

"My successful win-win policy has successfully transformed many former Khmer Rouge battlefield commanders from soldiers to golf lovers," Hun Sen said at a school in the capital.

The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975-79. More than one million Cambodians died from disease, starvation, overwork and execution while the Khmer Rouge held power.

Pol Pot, who headed the regime, died in 1998 but most of his deputies live freely in Cambodia. No one has been brought to court to answer for his role in the atrocities.

After being driven from power in 1979, the Khmer Rouge waged a guerrilla war against the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government that included Hun Sen.

Hun Sen singled out three former Khmer Rouge military leaders as enthusiastic golfers: Y Chhien, current governor of the northwestern town of Pailin, and two generals, Sok Pheap and Keo Pong.

"When they play golf, they wear the same uniforms as other golfers, and they don't fight anymore," Hun Sen said.

A human rights tribunal will try many former Khmer Rouge leaders despite their conversion to peaceful activities, Hun Sen said.

He reiterated Monday that he "would not budge" in the face of UN opposition to the tribunal law and that Cambodia would go ahead with the trials even if the United Nations decided not to take part in them.

The government is expected to approve the draft law, which sets up the framework for the trials, in a matter of weeks, officials say.

In February, the United Nations' legal team raised concerns about the tribunals, which Cambodia so far has ignored.

The two sides are expected to discuss the United Nations' role in the tribunals in the coming weeks.

The premier has blamed the United Nations for the prolonged suffering of Cambodia by supporting an international blockade of the Vietnamese-occupied country from 1979 until 1989. *AP*

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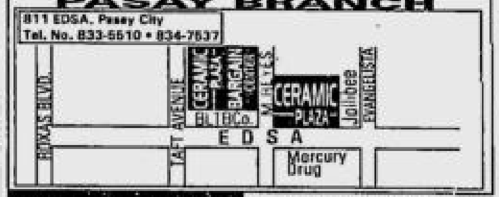

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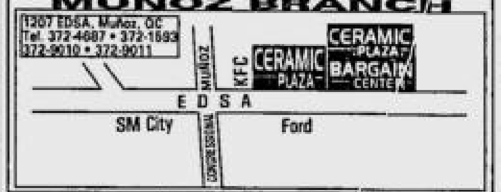

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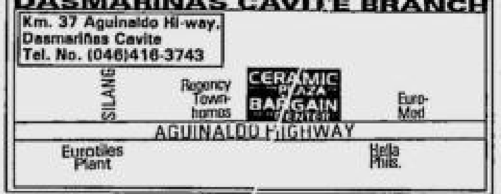

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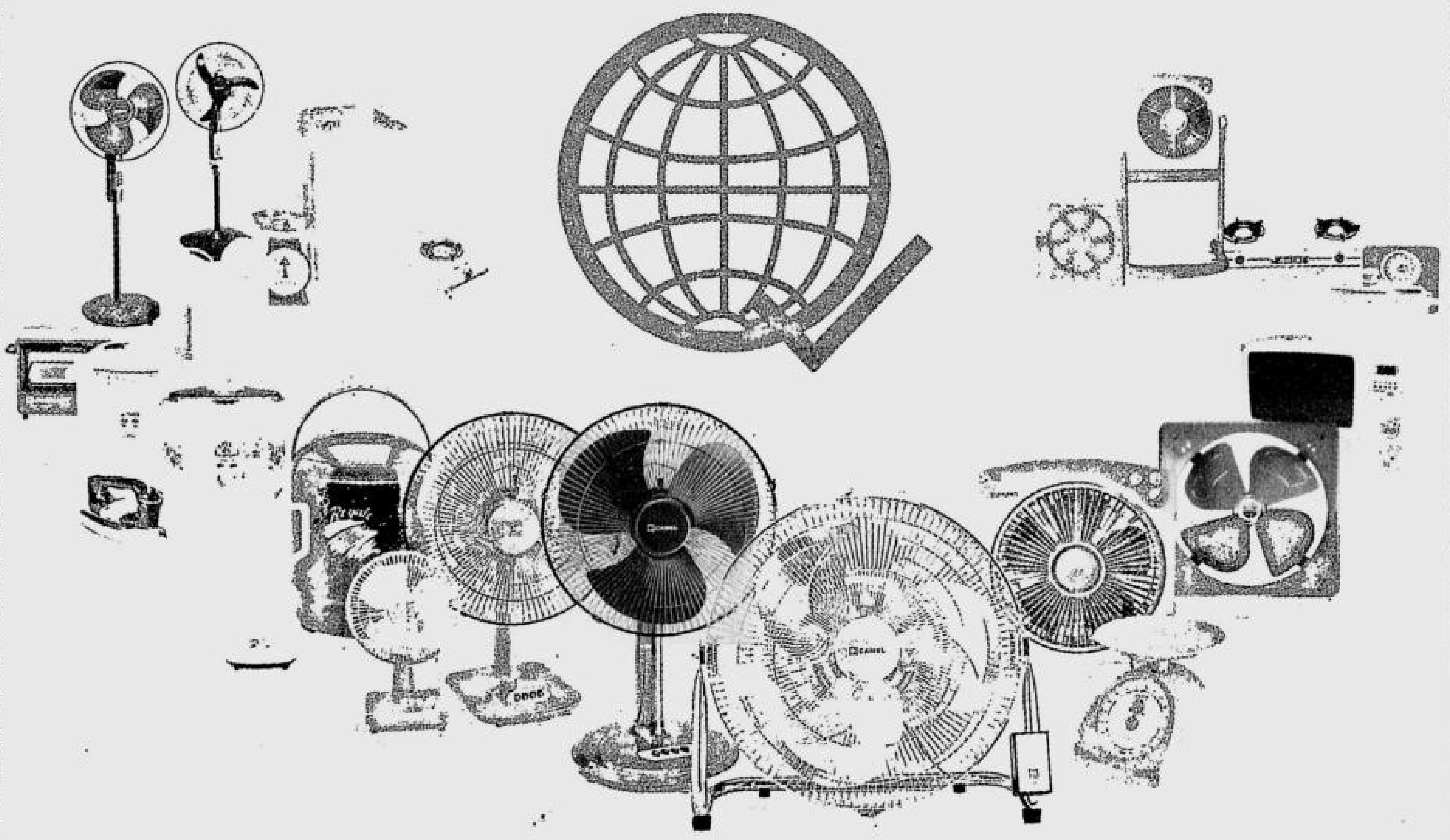

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Powell urges RP to resolve Basilan crisis

(From page A1)

The Burnhams, along with another American, Guillermo Sobero, were among 20 people seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27 and later brought to the island of Basilan.

Of the 20, only the Burnhams and two Filipinos remain in captivity. Two Filipinos were killed, and the rest escaped or were freed allegedly in exchange for ransom payments. Sobero was supposedly beheaded, but his body has not been found.

The Abu Sayyaf also took more Filipino hostages in Basilan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier announced that the military was receiving help from the US government in the form of surveillance equipment.

Last month she launched a crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf and its supporters, giving the military powers to arrest suspects in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City.

But an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf who was arrested during the crackdown managed to escape from a military camp in Sulu, according to a report reaching Camp Aguinaldo.

Sipadan

The Armed Forces' Southern Command identified the escapee as Moen Gapasan, supposedly a member of the group that guarded the 21 mostly European tourists abducted last year by another Abu Sayyaf faction from the Malaysian island-resort of Sipadan and taken to Jolo, Sulu.

Gapasan was arrested on July 16 at Barangay Bato in the town of Panglima Estino, three days after the start of the crackdown on Abu Sayyaf members and supporters.

He reportedly escaped at 8 a.m. on July 28 from the headquarters of the 7th Infantry Battalion at Camp Bautista in Jolo.

Sources said Gapasan was in a detention cell when he sought and was granted permission to go to the toilet. They said he managed to get away despite the supposed presence of military guards.

The escape is being investigated.

More than 100 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters have been arrested since the crackdown started on July 13. About 50 have been officially charged with kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms. The rest are being interrogated.

Also in Jolo, a grenade exploded outside the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Monday night.

No one was reported hurt in the attack, which SPO4 Alfafara Subahani, chief of the investigation division of the Jolo Police Station, said was perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf to divert the military's attention from the crackdown.

Col. Francisco Gudani, Southcom deputy chief for operations, said witnesses saw four unidentified persons near the cathedral minutes before the explosion.

Rights violations

In the Basilan capital of Isabela, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos denied allegations that soldiers had violated human rights in the course of arresting suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters.

"We are doing everything according to the legal process," De los Santos said, adding that his office had yet to receive complaints of rights violations.

But lawyer Jose Manuel Mamauag, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) director for Western Mindanao, said 30 of those arrested bore signs of manhandling and torture.

"One had his ear torn with long-nose pliers while in a helicopter. There were cigarette burns on the nipples (of another). One was doused with boiling water. Others have bruises on their bodies. We have photos of these," Mamauag told the INQUIRER in Taglish.

"Their rights to counsel were violated. The military also denied their families visiting rights," he added.

Mamauag said the CHR's findings had been submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman for the Military and to the Department of Justice.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of the Basilan-based 103rd Army Brigade, said that a total of 64 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters had been arrested in the province, and that a number had been released.

Esperon denied that his men had violated human rights. "We never manhandled our captured suspects," he said.

Teachers

One of those arrested was Arsad Sattar, an instructor at the Basilan State College.

The military is also hunting Isah Ibrahim, principal of the Basilan National High School.

But Ibrahim Albar, education director for Western Mindanao, pointed out that the object of the manhunt was a dedicated teacher.

"We are alarmed by this (manhunt)," Albar said. "In fact, several teachers stormed the office of the (military's) Task Force Comet just to have Ibrahim's name removed from the so-called list of suspects."

Government troops arrested another suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf in Bus-Bus, Jolo, Monday afternoon.

The suspect, Al-Antar Jadjulie, 22, a former Moro National Liberation Front fighter who has been integrated into the Army, was assigned with the 4th Infantry Battalion in Sulu.

He allegedly belongs to the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Mujib Susukan, and was reportedly among those who detained three French journalists and 12 Filipino evangelists led by Rev. Wilde Almeda in Jolo last year.

The journalists and evangelists were subsequently released, reportedly after paying ransom.

Reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Noralyn Mustafa, Julie Alipala-Inot and Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP

GMA may seal peace deal . . .

(From page A1)

laysia on Aug. 7. During her three-day visit, she and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad are expected to discuss border security and enhanced economic cooperation between their two countries.

It will be Ms Macapagal's first overseas trip since she took over the presidency from ousted leader Joseph Estrada in January.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said that his government hoped the two parties would sign a peace agreement during Ms Macapagal's visit.

Syed Hamid pledged Malaysian development aid to Mindanao upon the signing of a peace agreement.

"Maybe we can witness the warring factions signing a memorandum of understanding," the Malaysian news agency, Bernama, quoted Syed Hamid as saying.

Murad said the peace talks would resume on Sunday, two days before Ms Macapagal's arrival.

Jesus Dureza, the chief government negotiator, cannot be reached for comment.

Speculation

Speculation is widespread that Ms Macapagal may witness a historic deal ending the MILF rebellion, leaving the small Abu Sayyaf bandit group as the government's last remaining problem in Western Mindanao. She has refused to negotiate with the notorious kidnap gang.

Government and rebel negotiators began a new round of talks on July 24 at a beachfront hotel in Port Dickson, south of Kuala Lumpur, to put flesh on the ceasefire framework agreed last month in Libya.

The two panels agreed to take a break on Tuesday and resume negotiations on Aug. 3.

Malaysia, Libya and Indonesia have agreed to send observers to monitor the ceasefire accord.

MILF rebels have said that a comprehensive peace settlement hinges on government troops pulling out from camps they have captured.

Murad refused to say if the government team had agreed, but he said that "two or three issues" were still needed to be resolved.

The government had made some proposals that "were outside the scope of this meeting," Murad said, without elaborating.

Maulana Alonto, MILF media officer, also told Agence France Presse that a peace communiqué would be issued on Sunday if both sides reached agreement on security arrangements to end hostilities.

"Work on the communiqué will begin after we agree on the peace details," Alonto said.

The MILF agreed to reopen negotiations with the Macapagal administration after talks with then President Estrada collapsed last year when he ordered a massive assault.

For the past 23 years, MILF rebels have been fighting for the establishment of an independent Muslim state in Mindanao.

The fighting has killed more than 120,000 people and turned one of the country's most resource-rich regions into the poorest. *AP*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 234
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at **Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines** • Our new telephone numbers are **897-8808** connecting all departments; Editorial Fax **897-4793, 897-4794**; Advertising **897-4807**; Circulation **527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86** and **528-02-13**, Fax: **528-02-34**.

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Focus on women

EDITORIALS

WOMEN'S issues have taken the forefront in the new century. Even the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, otherwise a staid, predictable ritual, are not impervious to the trend. For the awards' 2001 installment, the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation has chosen to award two young Asian women-activists. None of the traditional awards fit the two's causes, so the foundation has established a new category, emergent leadership.

For its first year, the Emergent Leadership Award will be given to Oung Chanthol of Cambodia and Dita Indah Sari of Indonesia. The first is 34 and founded the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center to check sex trafficking and other crimes against women. The second is only 28 and has led the Indonesian National Front for Labor Struggle, an independent labor center, in pushing for a reform of labor laws and an end to military intrusion in industrial disputes.

The fact that the foundation had to start a new division to accommodate the two, plus the fact that the honoree for Government Service is a Chinese female deputy fighting for women's empowerment, only shows the awards have turned a new leaf. The old categories don't seem to apply to the polygonal nature of today's espousals and causes. Women, a long-silent sector of Asian history, have started to speak up in the last 20 years or so against their systematic and even cultural oppression by entrenched ruling blocs. Their struggles deserve a separate niche, a distinct recognition. Thus, Emergent Leadership.

The struggle for women's rights is being waged within and outside of government. The recipient of the Public Service award is Wu Quing, a deputy of the Beijing Municipal Congress and founder of one of China's first non-government organizations, the Women's Studies Forum. She is recognized for firmly putting women's issues on China's modern agenda.

The other honorees are males who represent the multifaceted achievements of the modern Asian. Yuan Longping from China invented in 1974 the world's first successful system for producing high-yielding hybrid rice on a large scale and for contributing to Asia's food security. Community Leadership recipient Rajendra Singh from India has restored the ancient reservoirs of Alwar and guided people to bring their rivers back to life. Peace and International Understanding honoree Ikuo Hirayama of Japan has mobilized resources and collaborators to restore and conserve Buddhist shrines and works in the old Silk Road that had been left to neglect, vandalism and commercial predators. And Creative Communications Arts recipient K. W. D. Amaradeva of Sri Lanka has synthesized his country's traditional musical forms and western genres to create music that pleases their hearers and put them in touch with the pulsating spirit of a nation and the universe.

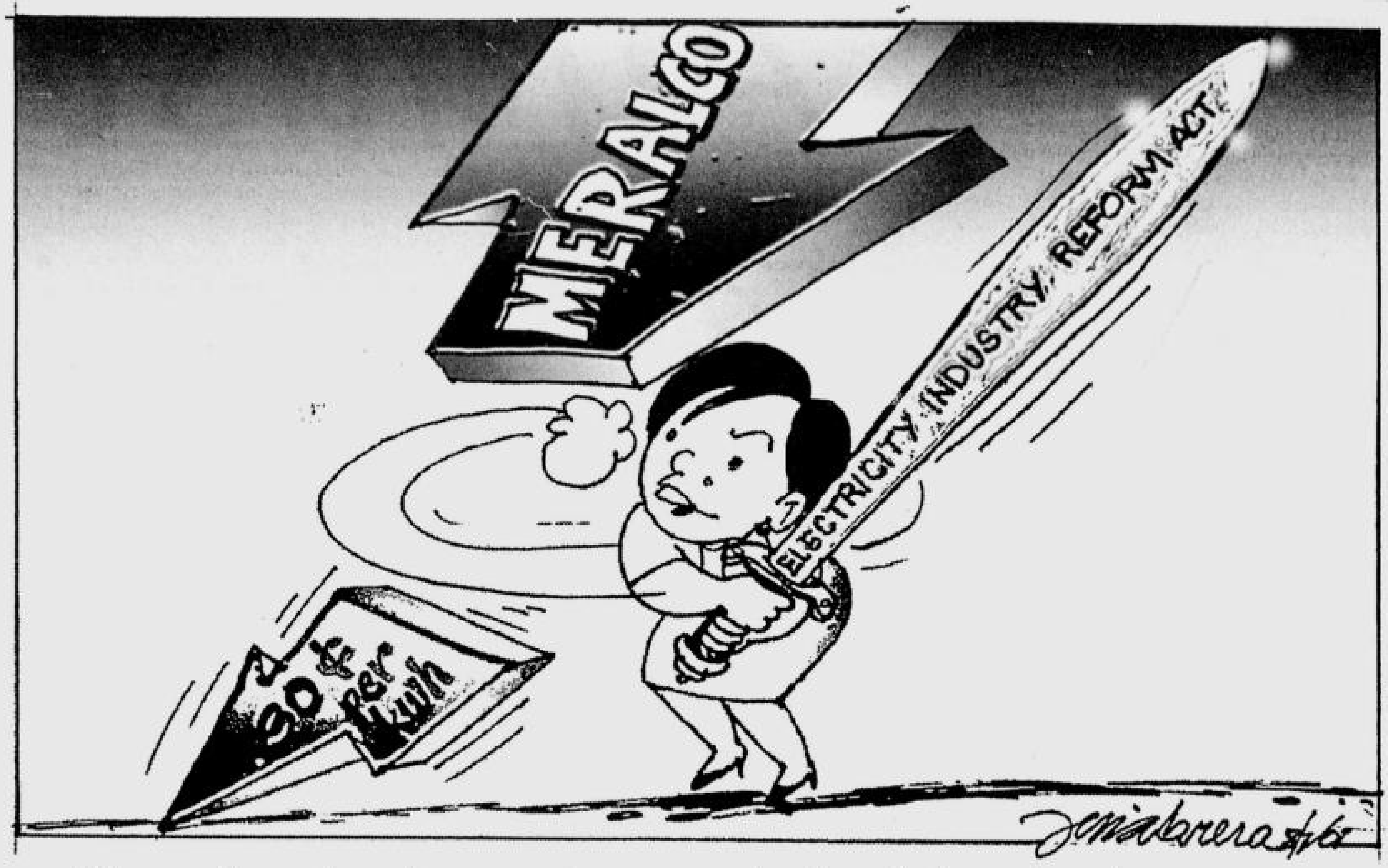
All in all, the Magsaysay honorees represent the crown of Asian achievement—making the diversity of human ingenuity reflect the best of the human spirit despite the darkness that continues to cast its pall over Asia.

Too young

THE NEW category of Emergent Leadership, according to Carmencita T. Abella, is meant "to acknowledge young people, age 40 and below, who are effecting social change in their immediate sphere and beyond." Well said. Perhaps our only reservation is that recipients of the award may be too young so that they have a full life ahead of them to backslide and undo the achievements for which they have been recognized.

From hero to heel (in this case, since the first recipients of the new award are females, from heroines to scamps). That is very probable because the longer one's life is, the more chances for compromises, even sellouts. Then as now, most of the Magsaysay honorees are advanced in age who have struggled with their reforms and innovations despite indifference or persecution. Their achievements have withstood the wear and tear of time, their polish becoming even keener as the years go by.

That prospect is not assured by the young honorees. Remember that Miriam Defensor-Santiago received her Magsaysay Award for Government Service when she was in her early 40s. That gave her plenty of time to ruin the original purity of her vision and hurl mud at the people whose interest she was supposed to uphold and for whose advocacy she received the award. Her sad example shows that like youth, important awards may be wasted on the young.



Comelec is slowest, most indecisive in the world

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

OUR current Commission on Elections deserves a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. It should be listed there as the slowest and most incompetent poll body in the world. Many cases that should have been resolved before the May elections are still undecided until now, almost three months after the polls. Comelec commissioners cannot get a quorum to conduct business. They are not even talking to one another. They hurl charges and countercharges against one another through press releases in the media. But they are as hard to locate as rats and snakes when media workers try to talk to them. They play hide and seek with those following up their cases in the Comelec. They now form a new class of TNTs—or *Tago ng Tago*.

We tried to put together in one forum some Comelec commissioners and some complainants wanting answers to their questions. We invited them all to last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila Hotel. Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Resureccion Borra confirmed their attendance. When the day came, the complainants were there is force with their lawyers—Caloocan officer in charge Reynaldo Malonzo, the Photokina VRIS Project group, complainant Ernesto T. Matugas in the disqualification case against Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Smith Barbers and representatives of party-list groups. Not one of the Comelec commissioners, or a spokesperson, showed up. So there were only complaints, denunciations and questions during the forum but no answers from the Comelec. We'll explain briefly their individual cases.

1. In Caloocan, almost three months after the elections, there is still no declared mayor, vice mayor and city council. So that the delivery of basic services to the people of Caloocan will not be interrupted, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Malonzo (who garnered the most votes in the polls) as officer in charge along with the holdover vice mayor and city council.

Commissioner Luz Tancangco had said to media that "there is a failure of elections in Caloocan." But that was only her opinion. The Comelec itself has not made a decision.

The questions now are: How long will this uncertainty remain? When will the Comelec make its decision? And what will happen if the Comelec decides there is a failure of elections? When will new elections be held?

The answer is silence from the Comelec.

* * *

2. In October 2000, the Comelec held a bidding for its Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS) project. A key component in the modernization of the electoral system in the country, the VRIS project entails the computerization of the Philippine voters' list and providing each of the 36 million registered voters with a tamper-proof identification card containing security features to eliminate flying voters.

The P6.5-billion, three-year project was awarded to a consortium led by the Photokina Corp. whose foreign partners include American firms IBM, Polaroid, Unisys, Headstrong and French security company Sagem. But until now, two months short of one year after the bidding, the Comelec has not given any contract to Photokina.

The consortium wants to know what is causing the delay, or if the project will be pursued or not, but Comelec Chair Benipayo doesn't even want to talk to them. What's going on here? Why doesn't the Comelec make up its mind?

Meanwhile time is growing short. Only two and a half years remain of the original three-year timetable. To complete the project before the 2004 elections in the shorter period, the consortium will have to field more people and equipment and so the costs go up. And judging from the conduct of the last senatorial and local elections—admittedly the dirtiest in the history of the Philippines—we will have worse elections in the 2004 presidential elections if the electoral system is not cleansed and modernized.

So what is the Comelec going to do?

* * *

3. Robert Lyndon Smith Barbers was naturalized as an American citizen in Los Angeles, California on Oct. 11, 1991 (Naturalization cert. 14738741) as shown by the response of the US Embassy to the query of our Bureau of Immigration. On May 2, 2000, he applied for registration as voter in Surigao City. Although he was an American citizen, he stated under oath that he is a Filipino citizen.

On Feb. 28, 2001, he filed his certificate of candidacy for governor of Surigao del Norte, again stating under oath that he is a natural-born Filipino citizen.

Before the May 14 elections, or on April 10, 2001, a petition for disqualification of Barbers as candidate was filed with the Comelec. But the poll body failed to act on it so Barbers was voted for in the May 14 polls and got the highest number of votes for governor. An urgent motion for suspension/annulment of his proclamation was filed on May 17, 2001 but again the Comelec failed to act on it. So now, the governor of Surigao del Norte is an American citizen.

In his defense, Barbers claims he is a Filipino citizen, carries a Philippine passport and was appointed in July 1997 as director of the Department of Tourism, NCR. Nevertheless, his name appears in the computer database passenger manifest/IBM listing on file with the BOI as an American citizen.

These facts are not hard to verify, but the Comelec is sitting on the case. The reason is that Robert Lyndon Smith Barbers is the son of Sen. Robert Z. Barbers and the brother of Rep. Robert Ace Barbers.

Heroes' welcome

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RHOEL Raymundo Mendoza, a former overseas Filipino worker, is passionate in his remonstrations.

This Aug. 19, he says, a group of overseas Filipinos, representing hundreds of organizations from Europe, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Saipan and Guam, will come to Manila to campaign for the rights of OFWs, chief of them the right to vote. They have been desperately trying to make an appointment with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but so far, nothing. The President's appointments secretary, Rita Jimenez, has apparently told the leaders of the group the President is busy the entire month of August and cannot meet with them.

"On July 8, 2001," says Mendoza, "Argentinian star Natalia Oreiro who was in Manila to promote her new telenovela, 'Monica Brava,' was able to see you, despite your being ill at that. Likewise, Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales were accommodated in Malacañang for the mere purpose of asking you to be one of their wedding sponsors. Yet the overseas delegates representing the millions of men and women whose sweat and tears and, yes, on several occasions even blood have saved our country from plunging into the quagmire cannot be spared even a minute of your time?"

The guy has a point. As I recall, that was exactly the same complaint we had against Erap. At least that was the complaint of the Philippine Military Academy whose 100th anniversary Erap ignored to be at the wedding of Cristina Gonzalez. I don't know if the current President is aware that her people are screening her from representatives of the overseas workers—Mendoza himself allows for the fact that she might not be so. But whether so or not, receiving Mexican and Filipino stars with open arms while making the overseas workers wait with hat in hand outside the door—probably in vain—takes on the same epic proportions of bad priorities Erap showed.

One might add to this that the President also received and even shook hands with Manero, a fugitive from justice when he materialized from out of the hole he crawled from. This was the time she also banned "Live Show" for being immoral, prompting the public to ask what her concept of morality and immorality was. It was more moral to shake the hand of a man who had gained renown for eating the brains of one of his victims and who even then was being pursued by the law?

The President did ask the people in her State of the Nation Address to declare a truce on politicking and think of the country first. She might wish to follow her own advice, and stop trying to score brownie points with the *masa* by giving priority to movie stars—that has 2004 written all over it—over the people who truly matter.

This is especially so in light of the President's call for the OFWs to sacrifice some more for their country. In a telephone hook-up, she told a Filipino woman overseas last week: "Jobs here are difficult to find and we are depending on the people outside the country. If you can find work there, and send money to your relatives here, then perhaps you should stay there. For now, sad to say, that's about it. The reality is that, for now and many years to come, the OFWs will still be a major part of the economy."

Well, being a major part of the economy has a price to pay. The OFWs are among the loneliest people on earth, sacrificing not seeing their families (and as statistics show, even losing them to second families), just to be able to give their children a future. And their country too in the process, which may no longer survive without their remittances. According to a Wall Street Journal article, the total, global money from overseas workers in all countries is now more than $70 billion a year. That is bigger than the total official aid by the North to the South and bigger than all the foreign direct investment by US companies in emerging markets last year. In places like Pozzurubio in the Philippines, where one out of 10 of the adult population is working abroad, remittances have become the community's very lifeblood.

Surely the least a President can do in the face of this monumental contribution and sacrifice is to show some appreciation for the OFWs? Surely the least a President can do is to keep Mexican and Filipino movie stars waiting in the anteroom while opening the door—no, unfurling the red carpet—for the OFWs first? Of course Ms Macapagal did express her support for the overseas vote in her Sona. But that is not enough. That alone is not enough to guarantee the overseas vote, as the OFWs know only too well. Despite their vigorous campaign for it over the last few years, the bill providing for the overseas vote got only as far as second reading in Congress last year. The representatives claimed it was overtaken by events—the impeachment trial relegated it to the wayside. Too late to resurrect it in time for this year's election.

The time to get that bill passed is now. Or else the same fate will visit it by 2004. This country does not lack for upheavals and cataclysms that tend to consign vital bills to oblivion. And while no public official will be found opposing the overseas vote in public, many of them will fight it ferociously in private. The overseas vote is not something *trapos* can control.

But more than this, as Mendoza himself points out, spurning the overtures of the OFWs spurns as well their boundless goodwill. His impassioned plea says it best: "Madame President, I worked in Saudi Arabia for 17 years. So I know how it feels to long for one's motherland. I have visited several countries and in so doing met and talked with many *kababayans*, and felt their longing for home. Despite the comforts of living abroad (for most anyway), despite the dollars, the riyals, the yens, the sterling pounds, despite the cool weather and unpolluted air and sense of safety abroad, these *kababayans* always dream of going home for good. For the majority of them, that may not be soon. In the meantime, however, they need you to be there for them. They need government to be there for them. They need our *kababayans* to be there for them."

It would take a hard heart not to hear that cry of anguish.

The state of the opposition

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE "GUNS of August" offensive of the opposition has ground to a halt in just a week after it was launched by the minority leader, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, with a big bang.

The offensive sputtered after Pimentel failed to get Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo to sign an affidavit implicating Mike Arroyo, the President's husband, in an alleged bribery in what is claimed to be an effort to seek the recall of President Macapagal's veto of legislative franchises awarded to two telecommunications companies. He needed Rodrigo's affidavit to initiate an inquiry in the Senate blue ribbon committee. But it seems she does not want to be used as a weapon which can also wound her friends.

It has turned out that Pimentel staged the offensive based on hearsay, and so he fired empty shells from his howitzers creating smoke and ear-shattering noise but hitting nothing.

He fired from the hips while still smarting from his failed attempt to capture the Senate presidency. The offensive could not but fizzle—what with his drummer, Sen. Blas Ople, who sounded the charge with his "guns of August" bombast, hieing off to Geneva, his old watering hole during his halcyon days as Marcos' labor minister, to attend the annual inter-parliamentary union conference. This left Pimentel twisting in the wind as his prompter took off for an R and R in the midst of the battle.

Pimentel thought the allegations against Arroyo offered an opportunity to replicate the exposé of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson on the *jueteng* kickbacks on deposed President Estrada and to blow up a corruption scandal against the Macapagal administration. Pimentel seized the moment of what he thought could dismount President Macapagal from her moral high ground.

But Pimentel was in a hurry to attack, and did not examine whether he had ammunition. After firing his first shots, he discovered he was exploding powder into thin air. With his offensive having collapsed, Pimentel has become one of those naïve mortals who have reinforced Karl Marx's view that the first time history repeats itself it is a tragedy, and the second time, a farce. Pimentel succeeded in making it both—a tragedy for himself, and a farce for the opposition.

It is a tragedy for Pimentel because in the effort to prove he was the leader of the opposition, he hijacked the opposition and set it on the road to confrontational internecine warfare with the administration—a role that precluded agenda formation. Thus, in his reaction to a call by President Macapagal for a one-year moratorium on partisan politics over the administration's agenda, Pimentel replied with an "alternative agenda"—the charge that *jueteng* was rampant in Pampanga, the President's province. The call was about programs, and Pimentel's response was about scandals. Pimentel is not interested in programs, so he determines that the role of the opposition is that of a scavenger.

The position of Pimentel in the opposition is incongruous. He is a party of one—the PDP-Laban in the Senate—or of two, if you count another unstable ally, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, and yet he leads the opposition whose bulk is built on the Puwersa ng Masa or better still, Sen. Edgardo Angara's Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which has eight members in the Senate. The farce in Pimentel being the minority leader is that he is the equivalent of a mercenary general leading an army composed of different nationalities, and one may conjecture that the reason the minority party has allowed him to be in the frontline is that they are using him as a battering ram until he bashes his head in.

The interests of Pimentel and those of the LDP or PnM—who are identified as the heirs of Estrada—are incompatible. Pimentel has always tried to impress us that he is independent-minded. True, during the impeachment trial of Estrada, Pimentel walked the tightrope to show he was non-partisan. But during Edsa II and during the last two days of Estrada in office, he tried to play the "bridge" between Estrada and the Macapagal camps.

In fundamental terms, the two camps were irreconcilable. There was nothing to negotiate except the resignation of Estrada. There was nothing to "bridge," making Pimentel's imagined role useless. So, the basic contradiction of Pimentel's position as minority leader is that while he does not want to be identified with the stigma of the Estrada administration, he also leads the political heirs of Estrada.

This reflects the dilemma of the opposition over whether it will and can present itself as an alternative government or whether it will pursue the trajectory of trench warfare with the administration.

The opposition's role in a democracy is not just looking for dirt in the effort to embarrass a sitting government. There is the larger role of criticizing the government's policies and programs, identifying its shortcomings and presenting an alternative. The path into which Pimentel is leading the opposition is a scorched-earth policy. It precludes debate on a national agenda and its alternatives.

If the opposition wants to remove itself from the shadow of Estrada and reinvent itself into an alternative to the administration, it has to replace Pimentel as minority leader. He has no place in a constructive opposition. The opposition also has to outline its own alternative agenda, which is not the same as saying that Ms Macapagal's State of the Nation Address is all bad and will incur astronomical costs.

Pimentel is best suited as a hatchet man, disguised as a political maverick. The history of the Senate is redolent with the memory of great opposition leaders guided by statesmanship. One cannot for example imagine Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Lorenzo Tañada, Juan Sumulong, or Jose Diokno discharging the role of oppositionists by scavenging the sewers in search of scandals.

Koizumi faces toughest challenges ahead

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shino Yuasa

TOKYO—Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has cleared his first hurdle by scoring an easy win in upper house elections, analysts said Monday, but warned the toughest challenges still lay ahead.

"The result affirmed his high popularity and is seen as lending the people's credentials to his administration," said Nobuo Tomita, honorary professor of politics at Meiji University in Tokyo.

According to exit polls ahead of the official result, Koizumi's ruling coalition led by his Liberal Democratic Party was set to increase their majority in the House of Councilors, the upper house, after Sunday's ballot, his first nationwide electoral test.

"With the victory on Sunday, Koizumi won a public mandate to press ahead with reforms," said Tetsuro Kato, professor of political science at Hitotsubashi University in the Japanese capital.

Eiji Ono, professor emeritus of economic and government policy at Kyoto University, said: "Koizumi's reform platform attracted voters including those who had been alienated from the LDP.

"Voters have almost illusory expectations for Koizumi, hoping he might do something to create a breakthrough," in the struggle to revive the economy, he added.

Koizumi has commanded strong public support with major opinion polls showing his approval rating peaking at nearly 90 percent. That rate has declined but still remains around 70 percent.

Koizumi, however, had no time to rest on his laurels, as calls were growing among anti-reform elements in his party for pump-priming measures to revive the second largest economy, analysts warned.

"Trapped by prolonged recession and rising unemployment rate, Koizumi may not be able to carry out his reforms," Ono said.

"Even before the LDP's resistance groups try to block Koizumi's reforms, the deteriorating condition of Japan's economy may put a brake on them (reforms)," he said.

The economy is inching closer toward recession with gross domestic product (GDP) in the three months to March shrinking 0.2 percent and most economic data indicating further contraction occurred in the April-June period.

Market players reacted calmly to the victory, but disappointment at Koizumi's slow action remained strong, broker said.

"The news was not a lead to trade shares as the coalition's easy victory was largely anticipated," said Sakura Friend Securities Koichi Kawata.

"Players are rather disappointed at the fact that Koizumi is unlikely to take any action for the time being," Kawata said.

By early afternoon, the Tokyo Stock Exchange's benchmark Nikkei 225 index had given up earlier modest gains and was hovering around a 16-year low.

Koizumi's victory may allow him to resist pressure from the LDP old guard, at least for now, Hitotsubashi's Kato said.

"They may voice strong opposition to Koizumi's reforms in private."

"But they cannot openly criticize his policy because these die-hard LDP elders won the election on the back of the so-called Koizumi effect," Kato said.

Tomita said: "From now on, the key word is next year's budget in which Koizumi will set out his blueprint for reforms. If resistance groups oppose, it will be time for him to dissolve the lower house and call general elections."

The government starts on its initial draft of next year's budget in August. After haggling with the ministries, the government will submit budget bills to the lower house in January and expects parliament approval in March.

Analysts also said there was no guarantee that Koizumi would keep his high support rate among fickle Japanese voters.

"At this election, the LDP, which used to get the upper hand in rural areas, showed its strength in urban areas as well, where floating votes are dominant," said Tomita.

"Koizumi was able to collect these votes this time, but no one knows of when this Koizumi boom is to end,," Tomita said. "Any boom will end eventually."

Political analyst at UBS Warburg securities, Shigenori Okazaki, said Koizumi would probably be reelected as president of the ruling LDP—and therefore prime minister—in party elections slated for September, but warned that did not in itself make reform more likely.

"This does not guarantee that Koizumi can or will now accelerate his reform since many LDP MPs believe election and reform are two separate things," he said. ***AFP***

A collector of books and Filipiniana

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THOUGH it is a beautifully printed book, "Plantas Medicinales de Filipinas" is not on a short-list of titles I will take with me on a deserted island. It remained on a growing pile of unread books beside my worktable. When books enter my study some are immediately read. These lucky titles are found near the sofa, books I will take to bed with me at night. That is as intimate as they can get. Other books go straight to the reference shelf after I have satisfied my curiosity about obscure books (bibliographies) or cuss words and anatomical terms (dictionaries). Some books end up on shelves beside kindred books of the same subject, less fortunate ones go to a dusty corner where they await recycling into wedding gifts.

"Plantas Medicinales de Filipinas" stayed beside my worktable due to the author rather than the subject of the book. Dr. Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera is not one of my favorite people, politically speaking. This man founded the Federalista party. My interest in him stemmed from his being a friend of Jose Rizal and brother-in-law to Juan and Antonio Luna. As I got to know him better I ignored his politics and concentrated on his scholarship, like his exploratory essay on precolonial Philippine script. I have a soft spot for him because he was a great collector of books and Filipiniana long before it was fashionable or even lucrative to do so. When I entered Club Filipino in my childhood, I would stop by a gallery of past club presidents to defiantly stick my tongue out at the stern, scholarly looking man with a monocle. It was something I would never do if I were face to face with Pardo de Tavera.

Pardo de Tavera's magnificent library—containing books, manuscripts, photographs and other items of historical interest—survived the Philippine Revolution and World War II. It survived the Philippine heat and humidity which is unkind to paper. It survived assorted pests: rats, cockroaches, *anay*, especially the most dangerous of all, man. With keen foresight he sealed his collection in steel drums where they remained untouched in the home of his granddaughter, Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera who, in 1994, donated the collection to the Ateneo de Manila University Library where it is now open to scholarly research.

Pardo de Tavera was rare as his library because he not only collected books, he actually read them. His annotated bibliography of Philippine imprints, Biblioteca Filipina, published by the US Library of Congress in 1903 is a shameless display of erudition that would not be possible without a rich personal library or access to one. The catalogue of the Pardo de Tavera collection alone is daunting because it is as thick as a telephone directory. On my first day there, I was guided by a frail *mestizo* named Frank who now resembles Pardo de Tavera. He has since been reassigned to the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) where I fear he may yet achieve another unwanted metamorphosis.

The first in a series of publications of the Pardo de Tavera collection—this one sponsored by the Ayala Foundation/Filipinas Heritage Library—is "Plantas Medicinales de Filipinas," available in the original Spanish and an English translation by Jerome B. Thomas Jr. First published in 1907, the work has been updated by Dr. Vivian Tolentino of the Ateneo Biology Department to reflect current terminology. Pardo de Tavera's preface was written in Paris in 1892, after two years of research in Manila, San Mateo and San Miguel. Although he was a doctor of medicine, with a degree from the Sorbonne in Paris, he maintained a respect for Philippine medicinal plants and their use by herb doctors—*herbolarios* and *curanderos*—who were treated with contempt by ignorant boors whose superficial claim to education was a diploma. Like Rizal in Dapitan, Pardo de Tavera realized that many ordinary plants were readily available to people who did not or could not avail of the expensive over-the-counter remedies from the *botica*. Pharmacists did not even keep a stock of fresh plants and herbs for medicine and Pardo de Tavera had to source his supply from Binondo. Today herbal remedies can be found in Quiapo.

Pardo de Tavera arranged the plants according to its scientific classification, supplying native names for easy reference, and annotated. Of garlic (*bawang*) he wrote:

"The garlic and the onion are used to excess as condiments in Philippine as well as Spanish cooking. Both are difficult of digestion and communicate a very disagreeable odor to the breath, intolerable to those who are unaccustomed to it. Garlic possesses the singular property, familiar to many students and soldiers, of inducing a transient fever if introduced in the anus. When bruised and applied to the skin it has a counterirritant action which makes it useful in the treatment of rheumatism, but the odor is so disagreeable that it is not worthwhile to use it for that purpose when we have so many other medicines which produce the same effect without being objectionable. It is also used locally for the bites of venomous animals."

After laughing through this, I ended up reading the whole book cover to cover, wondering why in this age of generics and alternative medicine we do not return to our own Philippine medicinal plants.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

There is hope, after all

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"AN OPTIMIST is one who says things can't get worse; a pessimist is one who says they can." When national life is at a low ebb and humor like this is making the rounds, when *hiya* has vanished from public life and the "best and the brightest" are emigrating, it is good to note that we do have some genuine heroes, women and men who have "stayed the course," rendering generous and sometimes heroic service to the Filipino people.

So it was good that at its Special Academic Convocation on July 25, the Ateneo de Manila University called attention to 11 individuals and groups which have rendered such service. Here we can indicate only briefly their names and their various contributions.

The Public Service Award went to two groups, Tabang Mindanao and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. The former represents the response of many in the religious sector, the media, business, foundations and NGOs, to the massive suffering of the people of Mindanao—starting with the effects of El Niño in 1997-98 and moving on to the situation of the lumad and then to the refugees displaced by the war with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Tabang Mindanao has over the years brought desperately needed relief and assistance to hundreds of thousands of families. Beyond this, as the citation noted, Tabang Mindanao has "demonstrated how noble causes can be operationalized by tapping the deep reservoir of volunteerism which many Filipinos possess."

The PCIJ is best known today for its exposés on the Estrada mansions and business interests, which played a major role in the run-up to the impeachment proceedings. But the PCIJ's story goes back much further than that, to the year 1989 when Sheila Coronel and an intrepid band of journalists, mainly of the "stronger sex" (i.e. women) banded together to get at the stories behind the stories. Their reports have gained them dangerous and powerful enemies and death threats, but in a world in which "plausible deniability" is standard operating procedure, they have provided both a service to the public and a warning to those in power.

The "Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi" award went to the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. The citation notes not only that the recipients of the Palanca awards could constitute a Who's Who in Philippine Literature, but that the competitions have provided an "anchor and continuity," in the form of valuable criticism and support for younger, developing artists.

Also in the area of the arts, the degree Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, was bestowed on Dom Bernardo M. Perez, O.S.B., a "Renaissance man"; "architect and art critic; writer and journalist; government commissioner for travel and tourism; dance company technical director, stage manager and designer" and a guiding presence at the San Beda College for 24 of its 100 years.

Rosemarie M. Cabrera received posthumously the Ozanam Award, reserved for Christian lay women and men who have given outstanding witness to their faith through service to others, especially the poor. As a fresh college graduate "Rosie" had joined the Jesuit Volunteer Program, and served for two years in remote areas of Sorsogon and Nueva Ecija. Later she joined the central staff of the program and eventually became its executive director. On Ash Wednesday of this year, after serving as Eucharistic minister at Mass, she suffered a severe asthmatic attack and died, at the age of 33. She is remembered especially for the late-night phone calls, long distance and at her own expense, by which she provided loving care and encouragement for volunteers suffering from loneliness and discouragement.

The Bukas Palad Award in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, S.J., a dedicated teacher at the Ateneo and chaplain at the Bilibid Prison who in 1936 was killed by the communists in Spain, was fittingly awarded to three dedicated pastors. One award went posthumously to Fr. Rhoel D. Gallardo, CMF, who comforted and strengthened his fellow prisoners in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, refused to give up his faith and was tortured and killed.

Another Peypoch awardee, Fr. Michel Marie Joseph de Gigord, MEP, spent 20 years working for Muslim-Christian dialogue and understanding in Mindanao. Based in Marawi, he was twice kidnapped and on one occasion had to be smuggled out of the city to save his life. He has been recalled to France by his religious superiors and will be badly missed in the difficult times ahead. The third Peypoch awardee, the 89-year-old Columban Fr. Francis Chapman, first came to the Philippines in 1938 and is still active at the Cathedral in Cagayan de Oro as a much-appreciated confessor and an inspiring model for younger priests.

The lives of the last three awardees may lack the drama found in the careers of some of the others; but for that reason they may serve not only as heroes but as models for undramatic servants like ourselves. The very first Government Service Award given by the Ateneo went to Tomas Africa in recognition of his many years of dedicated, competent and creative service in the creation and upgrading of the nation's statistics. The Lux in Domino Award, for Ateneo alumni who have been outstanding in living its ideals of service of God and of the poor, went to two medical doctors, cardiologist Dr. Manuel Chua Chaco Sr. and Dr. Enrique T. Novales, doctor to the rural poor in Zambales.

One left the convocation thinking that with people like these, there is hope for the Philippines after all.

THEY SAID

Not gloomy

"We cannot pretend that everything is fine and dandy. But I don't think we can afford to be gloomy…"
—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Reverse Sona

"Instead of delivering a subjective report on the country's affairs, she should listen to what the people have to say. It's the people who know the true state of the nation and it's the President who should do the listening."
—Kilusang Mayo Uno Chair Crispin Beltran

Divided Senate

"In a very closely divided Senate, I think everyone will start behaving."
—Sen. Joker Arroyo

Not just numbers

"Poverty is not just a statistical indicator. It is a condition that strips people of their dignity and spoils the hope of generations for a better life."
—Commission on Population executive director Tomas Osias

Confidentiality limits

"The power to investigate corrupt public officials and private individuals who conspired with them must not be fettered by claims of the privilege of confidentiality…"
—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling barring investigators from looking into bank records of persons being probed for graft

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Not mutually exclusive

WHEN President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo renewed her offer of a political truce to stop the bickering among the members of the ruling party and the opposition, the opposition quickly rejected it. Sen. Blas Ople and his cohorts argued that such a truce would be against their thrust of being a responsible and critical opposition.

I find it too convenient for the members of the Puwersa ng Masa to cloak themselves in the concept of a "vibrant" opposition amid the calls for unity. Why does it always have to be a dilemma between having a political truce and being a responsible opposition? Are these choices mutually exclusive of one another?

The political truce offered by the Macapagal administration is quite simple and logical for any layperson. It is a request for both sides to refrain from amplifying irrelevant issues that may aggravate the present socio-political situation. It is a call for unity in a time when we are very prone to crises.

If members of the opposition believe in responsibility, they, among all people, should know that their primary responsibility is the welfare of their constituents. They should not engage too much in party politics. Being responsible while at the same time coming up with a kind of truce is not necessarily contradictory with one another.

It doesn't always have to be a choice between having a political truce and sacrificing the principle of being an opposition. These two can complement each other. If the opposition sees itself as responsible, it should refrain from making unwarranted accusations that could only trigger destabilization. This also goes for the members of the ruling party, some of whom hurl insults indiscriminately to the other side.

We, the Filipino people who elected these leaders, have the right to demand for concrete results. The economy is down and natural calamities have taken so many lives already. We don't want to watch political dramas anymore. This is the time when we need to focus on addressing the concerns of the "*masang* Pilipino." If our leaders turn a blind eye on this, there is no doubt that history will repeat itself in the guise of an Edsa IV. Let's not go that far.—**BRYAN A. SAN JUAN, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

No place for bitterness in pol's heart

ON JULY 26, your columnist Conrado de Quiros, a dear friend, wonders what I am "bitter about."

May I reply that I am not bitter about anything. Bitterness is something that people—especially politicians like me—should never harbor in their hearts because it is so self-defeating.

Contrary to impressions that might have been created by my recent ouster from the Senate presidency, let me categorically say that I am not angry with anyone. Franklin Drilon, the new Senate president, is a dear friend and a worthy opponent. In fact, I relish my new role as a member of the minority in the Senate because it enables me to help create an independent, responsible and pro-people political opposition. Something that is vital to the establishment of a dynamic democracy in our country.—**SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., 6th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

New BIR chief deserves support

I WAS listening to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address and I noticed how supportive she sounded of the new Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez. She said in her speech that she would use the Bureau of Internal Revenue as a showcase in the government's thrust toward clean governance.

I don't know Bañez and I am not familiar with his track record. But his qualifications must be impressive for the President to pledge her support fully.

I used to work as a secretary for an architectural firm in 1993. I was the one tasked to fix the company's tax records, papers and books in the BIR. While I was working on the papers, a BIR employee suggested that we just give her P1,500 to fix everything. I was surprised because the woman was pregnant and looked very innocent. Unfortunately, I was not able to get her name. The red tape made it difficult for me to do my job as well as I could.

I have read reports about how badly some employees of the BIR want to get rid of the new commissioner. Bañez is probably doing something really good for some corrupt officials to dislike him so much.

I, for one, want to tell him to have courage and go on with his plans to reform the BIR. This has been an old pledge made by every past administration. It's time someone had the guts to do something about the corruption that is prevalent in the BIR. Those who understand the man-size job ahead of him can only pray that he succeed and that he will be protected in his endeavor. The forces of good will prevail and God sees everything.

I encourage all friends and supporters of reform in the bureau to support the work of the new commissioner. Transformation must begin somewhere, and what better place could there be than the BIR?—**MELISAH V. DIMAYUGA, 9th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Essence of saints' greatness

PLAYS about the saints are commendable ("Play on Joan of Arc," PDI, 7/23/01) because they give us a peek into their heroism. However, it is crucial to be faithful to the spirit by which they lived their lives. While it is true that they practiced human virtues to a heroic degree—St. Joan of Arc's perseverance and St. Francis of Assisi's detachment from material things, for example—their real greatness lies in their having surrendered their entire lives to "something greater than Jonah...something greater than Solomon," which is God. They relied on God's grace to transform their human virtues into something greater than themselves to achieve God's ends.

They are canonized saints of the Catholic Church precisely because of their faithfulness to her teachings (the divinity of Christ, the reception of the sacraments, including penance, the authority of the Church, the communion of saints, etc.). To suggest otherwise would be to present an anemic version of their lives. Worse, to use them as a means to attack the Catholic Church albeit subliminally, would be to erode the very meaning of their having lived in this world.

There is a big difference between questioning the Catholic Church's teachings with childlike trust and openness toward real understanding and love for the Church, and a questioning based on skepticism. If we allow it, our mind can reach the depth of Catholic teaching, but to do so would require the humility to accept the mysteries our limited minds cannot fully grasp. The saints did this—and that is the essence of their greatness.—**CATHERINE C. LANZONA, 126 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, Quezon City**

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Mideast violence threatens to spin out of control

GAZA CITY—Violence in the Middle East threatened to spiral out of control Monday after six Palestinians were killed in a West Bank blast and Israeli combat helicopters pounded Palestinian police headquarters in Gaza City.

The upsurge in tensions came after a weekend of rioting in Jerusalem, where Israeli police and Palestinian protestors fought running battles on the Temple Mount, one of the holiest sites in the Jewish and Islamic faiths.

The unrest has left a US-sponsored ceasefire in tatters, with the death toll since it was declared June 13 rising to 61—44 Palestinians and 17 Israelis.

At least four Palestinian policemen were injured when Israeli helicopter gunships fired five missiles at the walled compound which Army said was being used to make arms and mortar shells.

The blast smashed walls and blew out windows of the compound, known as "Arafat City," after the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who was in Tunisia to push for an Arabic conference to tackle the 10 months of violence, which has left 675 dead, including 528 Palestinians and 128 Israelis.

"This is another Israeli crime," Arafat's top aide Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

"It will only escalate the situation. We ask the international community, namely the United States, to move swiftly to stop the Israeli aggression and its war against the Palestinians and to provide international protection."

The death toll rose sharply in the early hours Monday morning when an explosion in a car junk yard in the West Bank village of Farah killed six Palestinian men, at least three of them militiamen from Arafat's Fatah movement. *AFP*

Megawati defers naming of Cabinet to next week

JAKARTA—The lineup of Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri's new Cabinet may not be known until next week, an aide to Megawati said yesterday.

"I'm certain it will be announced next week," Roy Janis, a deputy chair of Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), said.

The naming of the new Cabinet has been delayed for various reasons following Megawati's elevation to the presidency on July 23, in place of her impeached predecessor, Abdurrahman Wahid.

Amien Rais, chair of the country's top legislature, the national assembly, told local media that Megawati would meet political party leaders at her private residence on Thursday to discuss the lineup.

Rais said the names of party representatives to sit in the Cabinet would be discussed over an 8 a.m. breakfast meeting there, Satunet online news reported.

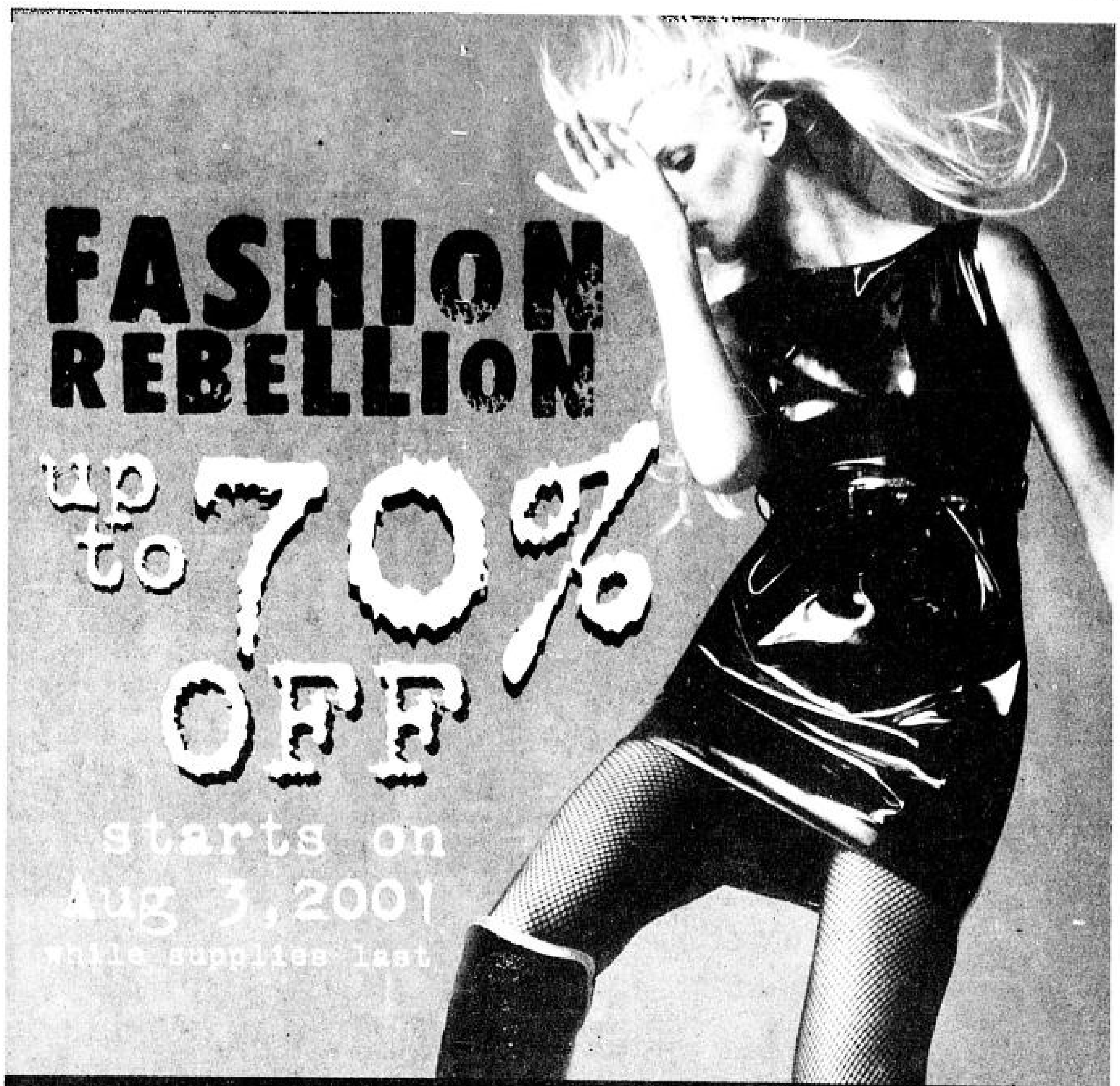
He also confirmed that his own National Mandate Party had nominated former finance minister Bambang Sudibyo and secretary general Hatta Rajasa for positions.

Janis blamed the bids by major political parties for spots in the government for Megawati's slowness in announcing the new lineup.

"There are quite a lot of proposals from the parties," he said. PDIP officials and the country's new vice president, Hamzah Haz, have been promising a multiparty Cabinet since last week in return for the cross-party support behind Megawati's rise to the presidency.

Haz said Monday that the Cabinet would be announced in the first week of August.

Janis said the structure of the new Cabinet and the proposed names were still being debated. *AFP*



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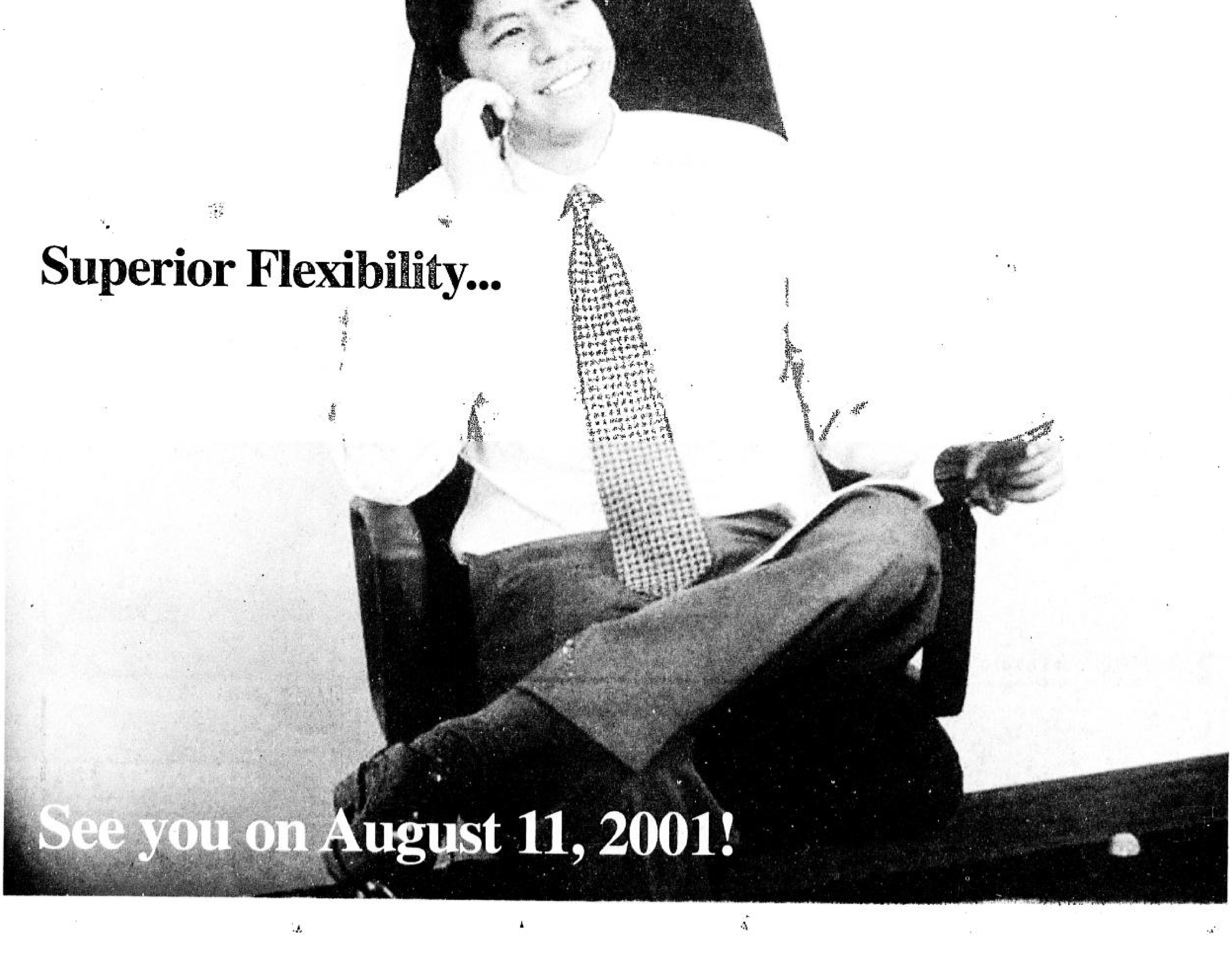
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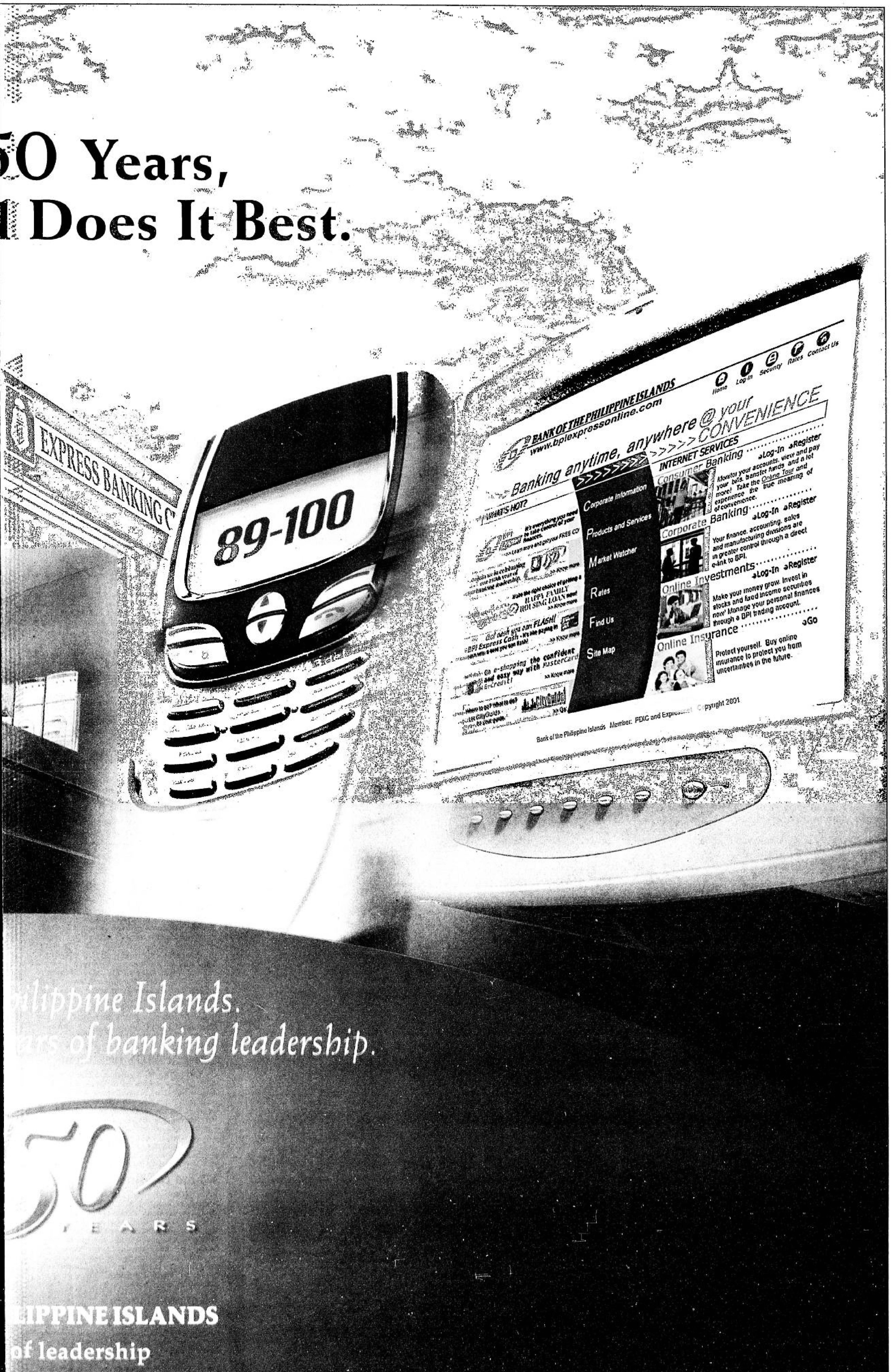

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Vajpayee offers to resign over mutual fund crisis

VAJPAYEE

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee offered to resign yesterday as charges flew over the crisis engulfing the country's largest mutual fund manager, but party colleagues persuaded him to stay on.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan told reporters the 74-year-old prime minister made his offer during a meeting with lawmakers from his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

It came amid criticism of his fruitless peace-seeking summit with Pakistan earlier this month and a furor over the massive losses incurred by state-controlled Unit Trust of India (UTI).

Opposition parties have harangued Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha over UTI for weeks, blaming him for failing to avert a crisis which they say ruined millions of small investors.

There has also been sharp criticism over UTI from members of Vajpayee's 21-month-old coalition government, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

On Tuesday newspapers said a key coalition partner, the Shiv Sena, had linked Vajpayee's office to the affair.

The rupee fell slightly on news of the prime minister's offer before partially recovering. Share prices remained in positive territory, but bonds were weak.

"There was a bit of anxiety and later relief that the political issue is not getting exacerbated," said Srinivas Varadarajan, a dealer at Chase Manhattan. "But the underlying concerns will linger for a while."

Mahajan made no reference to the UTI row in his statement on Vajpayee's offer to step down, and insisted that the issue had not been discussed at the meeting.

"At the BJP parliamentary party meeting this morning Prime Minister Vajpayee did express his desire to quit office in view of his inability to have the NDA function in a coherent and disciplined manner," Mahajan said.

"The party members reacted sharply to the PM's remarks and in one voice said that Vajpayee could not be allowed to leave."

As Mahajan spoke, Sinha was defending his ministry in the upper house of parliament. *Reuters*

Bush: Navy will leave Vieques, but only in 2 years

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico—Disregarding the will of islanders who voted overwhelmingly for an immediate end to Navy bombing exercises, President George W. Bush said Monday the Navy will leave Vieques but only as scheduled in two years.

In part, this is to ensure the Navy has an adequate training ground until an alternative is found, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Monday.

On Vieques, an estimated 300 opponents of the bombing participated in a march Monday to the Navy's base to celebrate their victory in the referendum.

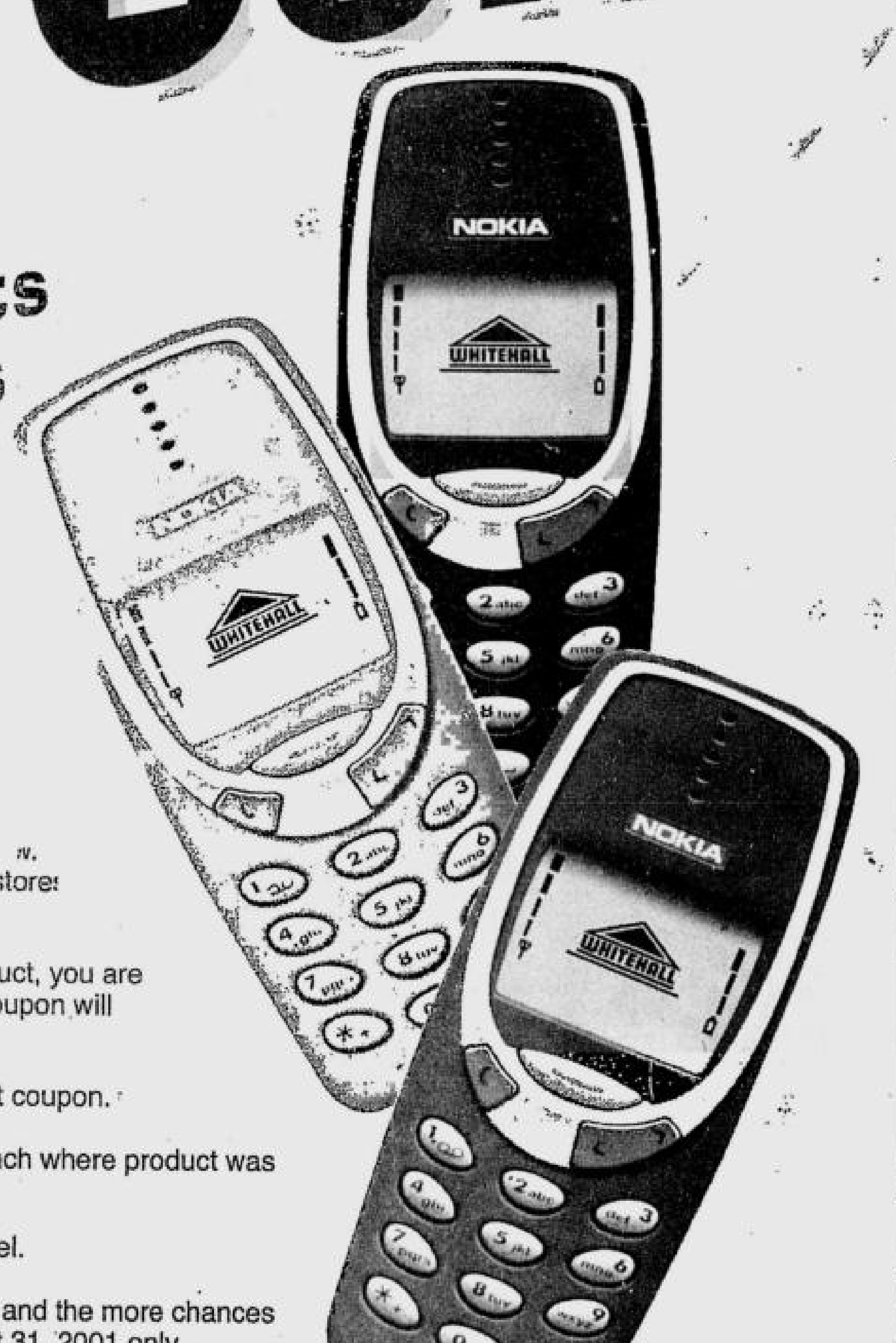
They were led by Vieques Mayor Damaso Serrano, who presented a symbolic "eviction notice" to Navy personnel at the base, where police presence was heavy.

Earlier, protesters set an American flag ablaze outside the base while residents blasted the White House's announcement, saying the democratic will of the people had been ignored.

"The position of the people of Vieques is clear," said Robert Rabin, an anti-Navy protest leader. "This is an issue of life or death and one cannot depend on the Navy or the president."

Opponents say the bombing has fouled the environment and damaged islanders' health—charges the Navy strongly denies.

The White House announcement came a day after a non-binding referendum on Vieques had nearly 70 percent of voters supporting an immediate end to the bombing and the Navy's withdrawal. *AP*



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CIA may expand role in curbing terror attacks

WASHINGTON—US intelligence review is exploring possible new roles for the CIA and other spy agencies in the domestic arena to protect the United States from terrorist attack, a senior intelligence official said.

US intelligence agencies operate overseas and are generally prohibited from having a hand in domestic affairs to ensure a taboo against spying on Americans is not broken. It is not clear yet what new role they might take on.

"We know that we're going to increasingly be a target in this country and we also know that intelligence is going to have a role to play in trying to protect the homeland, protect the continental US" a senior intelligence official familiar with the review said.

The official said that "nobody has worked through the mechanics of how all of that would work," but said it was expected that "one of the things coming out of this review would be some recommendations on how to think differently about the intelligence role in homeland defense."

President George W. Bush in May ordered a comprehensive review, giving CIA Director George Tenet a "broad mandate to challenge the status quo and explore new and innovative techniques, systems, practices and processes for foreign intelligence collection, analysis and distribution."

The review is assessing programs with an eye to being ready to meet future needs by 2015 and could recommend restructuring, the official and intelligence analysts said in recent interviews.

It is being conducted by a panel of government insiders led by Joan Dempsey, deputy director of central intelligence for community management, and a group of outside experts led by Brent Scowcroft, a former White House national security adviser.

The United States has been trying to develop a large-scale emergency plan to deal with any biological, chemical or nuclear attack on US soil. Vice President Dick Cheney is leading a review of America's ability to cope with such an attack. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

UN monitors on Taliban

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the deployment of UN monitors to help enforce sanctions against Afghanistan's Taliban rulers. The resolution adopted Monday calls for 15 experts to be sent to countries neighboring Afghanistan to assist local authorities in preventing arms and drugs smuggling that are fueling its brutal civil war. A five-member monitoring group will be established in New York to oversee enforcement of sanctions. The Security Council froze Taliban assets and imposed an international flight ban on Afghanistan's Ariana airlines in November 1999 to pressure the hardline Islamic militia to turn over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden for trial in the twin US Embassy bombings in Africa in August 1998. It also demanded that the Taliban stop supporting international terrorism and close its terrorist training camps. *AP*

Largest AIDS treatment

UNITED NATIONS—Nigeria plans to launch the largest AIDS treatment program in Africa using cheap generic drugs on Sept. 1, a UN special envoy says. The 10,000 adults and 5,000 children who will receive a drug cocktail are just a tiny fraction of the more than 2.6 million Nigerians infected with the HIV virus. But the Nigerian government's commitment demonstrates that within Africa efforts are under way to tackle the epidemic that has infected about 26.5 million people across the continent, said Stephen Lewis, the special envoy of Secretary General Kofi Annan for HIV/AIDS in Africa. *AP*

Wahid condition 'stable'

BALTIMORE—Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid was found to be in stable condition during a two-day medical checkup in the United States, his brother and personal physician said on Monday. Wahid, a frail 60-year-old Muslim cleric who was ousted from office by Indonesia's national assembly a week ago, underwent a battery of tests for blood pressure and the after effects of two strokes at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The final examination took place on Monday, and Indonesian officials said Wahid was expected to leave the United States as early as Wednesday. *Reuters*

'Scorpion Queen'

KUALA LUMPUR—A Malaysian woman yesterday was crowned the "Scorpion Queen" after living with 2,700 scorpions for 30 days. "I am really happy that I was successful in my attempt, but I'm going to miss the scorpions," Malena Hassan said after ending her bizarre stunt. Malena started living with the poisonous arachnids on July 1 in the two-by-six meter glass case in a museum in Kota Baru, northeastern Malaysia. The 24-year-old left the enclosure for just 15 minutes a day to use the bathroom and survived seven stings, two of them serious. *AFP*

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Manero release opposed

By Edwin Fernandez
and Rosa-May de Guzman
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Italian missionary Peter Geremia has urged Malacañang to defer the release of convicted priest-killer Edilberto Manero until the mastermind in the killing of Fr. Tulio Favali has been identified, charged and punished.

Speaking for the Diocese of Kidapawan, Geremia said the Catholic Church had already sent its position paper on the reported release of Edilberto, the triggerman in the Favali killing in February 1985.

Geremia, the original target of the killers, said that instead of Manero, the government should free Rogelio Bedanio, Severino Lines and his brother Rudy who, he pointed out, were not among the gunmen.

Bedanio and the Severinos are still serving jail terms.

The priest, a member of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions, has sent a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, giving conditions in exchange for the release of Edilberto and Norberto Manero.

"They should admit the many killings and atrocities they participated in," Geremia said.

"Father Favali was not the only victim of their atrocities. There were many (other) victims in Tulunan, North Cotabato," he told radio dxND in Kidapawan City. Geremia said villagers in Barangay La Esperanza in Tulunan had told him that before Father Favali's murder, Edilberto was overheard boasting about the number of people he had killed with his .45 cal. pistol.

"(If) you ask the people of Tulunan, they would say that Edilberto had been saying that he had killed many people," said Geremia, who is now working among indigenous people in North Cotabato.

Edilberto, younger brother of Norberto, admitted that he shot Favali. Having completed his release papers, Edilberto said he would get out of the national penitentiary any day now. He promised to live a good and peaceful life.

Edilberto has been in jail since the late 1980s and has been silently serving his term unlike his brother Norberto, who twice outsmarted government authorities.

In 1992, Norberto managed to get out of jail and tried to meet with then President Fidel Ramos at the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

Last year, then President Joseph Estrada granted Norberto and Edilberto conditional parole.

But a public outcry over the questionable process forced the Estrada administration to recall his release.

After several days of being a fugitive, Norberto gave up. He was transferred to the Sarangani provincial jail to face charges of murder and kidnapping.

During the Macapagal administration, Norberto escaped from jail, claiming he was not getting a fair trial. He later surrendered.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 27°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/01/01

ROUNDUP

Rebels rob militiamen

CARAGA, Davao Oriental—About a hundred New People's Army rebels led by a certain Ka Ronson entered Barangay Malvar here Thursday night and barged into the houses of members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, said Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's Special Forces Battalion. The rebels were looking for firearms but found none, Gopico said. They instead took the militiamen's personal belongings, he said. In Baganga town, suspected NPA rebels shot and killed Cafgu member Ricardo Cagumpay in front of his wife and children inside his house in Barangay Lambajon on Thursday.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Foot-mouth disease threat

CALAMBA CITY—The foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) may spread throughout Luzon if no measures are adopted to check its outbreak, the National FMD Task Force of the Bureau of Animal Industry warned here recently. Dr. Carolyn Benigno, task force head, said that 2,818 FMD cases have been recorded in Luzon since 1995. Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog had 2,084 outbreaks in five years. In the first six months of this year, the BAI noted an increase of 40 cases in Southern Tagalog and 16 cases in Central Luzon.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Barefoot' lawyers hired

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform has employed "barefoot lawyers" to facilitate the resolution of some 16,000 cases pending at its main office. Secretary Hernani Braganza said about 30 lawyers would be hired to visit line agencies and review applications for Certificate of Land Ownership Award. "But this (hiring and deployment of lawyers) will only be (made) in Metro Manila since most cases are docketed there," he said.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Oil palm farms at ARMM

DAVAO CITY—Areas in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao will be given priority in identifying potential farms for oil palm, Oscar Griño, Mindanao Palm Oil Industry Development Coordinating Council, said. Palm growers have agreed to tap areas in the ARMM, which has vast but undeveloped tracts of land. A draft resolution presented during the recent Palm Oil Congress here requested the national government to create a Palm Oil Council, which would rationalize government policies on the development of oil palm. Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Danilo Coronacion promised irrigation, subsidized fertilizer and financial assistance to the growers.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAF wing has no chief

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force's 15th Strike Wing still awaits the appointment by President Macapagal-Arroyo of its new Commander following the mandatory retirement on Monday of Brig. Gen. Enrique Abad, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class 1967, at age 56. The 15th Strike Wing, the PAF's most utilized unit based at Sangley Point in Cavite City, is currently under a caretaker deputy commander, Col. Amador Alojado Jr.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Island Garden gets P5M

DAVAO CITY—The Island Garden City of Samal recently received a P5-million allocation from the national budget for image-building and added security measures following the foiled attack on the Pearl Farm Beach Resort two months ago. Mayor Rogelio Antalan said the money, which he personally requested from President Macapagal-Arroyo, will be used to buy patrol boats, high-powered firearms and communication equipment, and to install substations around the island. Antalan said the patrol boats would also be used to monitor activities of dynamite fishers and other criminals.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cotabato flights resume

COTABATO CITY—Philippine Airlines will resume its daily Manila-Cotabato flight after the Air Transportation Office declared open the Cotabato Airport. Suspended on June 28 due to poor conditions of the airport runway, the daily flight will resume Saturday, according to Andy Mandanas, PAL-Cotabato manager. Mandanas said representatives of the Air Transportation Office and PAL assessed the repair work on the runway on Monday and were convinced of its safety. The asphalt overlay and minor repair work have been completed, Mandanas said, but added that a major repair work was still needed.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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The Board of Regents and the University Community invite the public especially the alumni and former PNS-PNC-PNU officials, faculty and staff to the university's 100th Foundation Anniversary celebration.

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
27 August – 02 September 2001

27 August, Monday
6:00 a.m. Morning Serenade (Diana)
(PNU Lopez Marching Band)
9:00 a.m. Unveiling of the Marker for the PNU Teacher Education Museum
Opening of PNS-PNC-PNU Centennial Exhibits
PNU Teacher Education Museum
Opening of Trade Fair
3:00 p.m. PNU Agusan Cultural Showcase
6:00 p.m. PNU Cadiz Cultural Night

28 August, Tuesday
7:30 a.m. Centennial Sportsfest
3:00 p.m. Cadiz Cultural Showcase
6:00 p.m. Isabela Cultural Night

29 August, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. Program for Scholarship Donors
3:00 p.m. Isabela Cultural Showcase
6:00 p.m. Agusan Cultural Night

30 August, Thursday
8:00 a.m. Students' Field Mass Demonstration
10:00 a.m. Stakeholders' Forum: "PNU on its Centennial: Contributing to Nation Building Through Teacher Education"
6:00 p.m. "Parting at Calamba", A drama by Severino Montano (National Artist)

31 August, Friday
8:00 a.m. Religious Services
9:30 a.m. Blessing of "Centennial Classrooms
10:00 a.m. Program for Retirees and Service Awards for Faculty & Staff
12:00 n.n. PNUFA/PNUEA Fellowship Lunch
1:00 p.m. Student Activities
6:00 p.m. Main Campus Cultural Show

01 September, Saturday
8:00 a.m. Unveiling of Centennial Marker
9:00 a.m. Launching of Coffee Table Book, Festschrift and Other Publications
2:00 p.m. Centennial Convocation
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Guest of Honor
4:00 p.m. PNU Centennial Grand Raffle (Prize: HONDA City Ty
6:00 p.m. - KORONASYON 2001
- * *Hari at Reyna*
- * *Prinsepe at Prinsesa*
- * *Prinsisito at Prinsisita*
- Social Dancing, Dance Contest/ Exhibitions
- Fireworks

02 September, Sunday
6:30 a.m.- Grand Alumni Homecoming
- PNU Historical Highlights in Parade
- Registration of Alumni (A fee of P500.00 will be collected to cover dinner, souvenir program and centennial pin)
- Election of PNUAA officers
- Batches/Chapters of Alumni in costumes for field mass demonstration
- PNU students in street dancing attire
- Departments/Colleges, staff units representing specific historical motifs
- Floats for the historical highlights, Jubilarians and Koronasyon 2001 winners

9:00 a.m. - Field Mass Demonstrations
- Alumni Batches /Chapters, Jubilarians will present dances (folk, jazz, cheer), gymnastics, calisthenics, sports' mimetics
- Awarding of prizes for outstanding groups

1:00 p.m. Lunch and Class Reunion
- (Each group will have a Key Person who will facilitate the reunion.)
- (Lunch will be taken care of by each group.)
- (Food booths will be available on campus)

3: 00 p.m. • Blessing of Dean Buenaseda Memorial Hall
5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass
- Presiding Priest: Fr. Corsie Legaspi, Class '65 *(Concelebration with other PNU-Alumni priests)*

6:00 p.m.• CENTENNIAL NIGHT (Dinner and Ball)
- Dinner and Socials
- Orchestra Music
- Fireworks

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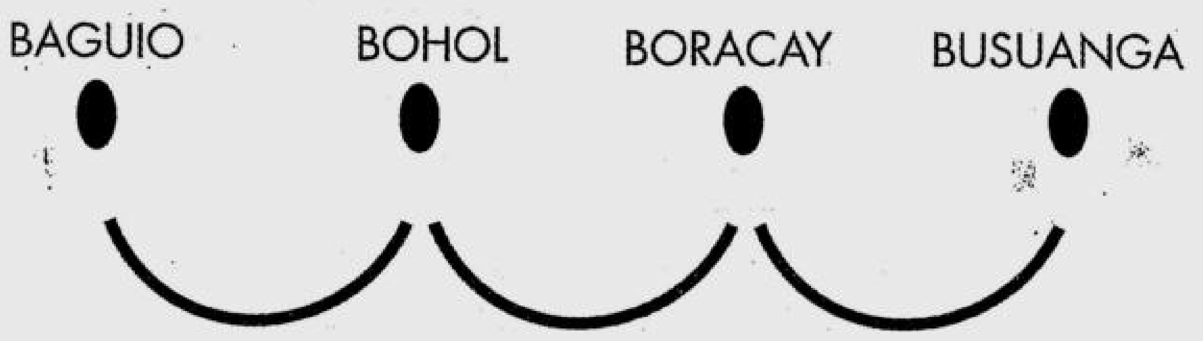

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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Dengue fever kills 8 in N. Luzon, Leyte

MANKAYAN, Benguet—Dengue fever has claimed the lives of two boys in this town and in Kalinga, reports here said.

Six persons have also died in Leyte province.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that 554 people in Benguet, Kalinga and Abra have been afflicted with dengue fever from January to July.

In Eastern Visayas, 226 persons have been reported afflicted in the same period, according to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Department of Health-Eastern Visayas in Tacloban City.

The dengue fatalities were identified as James Zarate, 5, of this town; and Jeremiah Realce, 3, of Balbalan, Kalinga.

Ramon Lee, acting administrative manager of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., said the firm has paid for the hospital expenses of 280 dengue patients who were either company employees or their dependents.

Records showed that from April to July, Benguet reported 354 dengue cases; Kalinga, 187 cases; and Abra, 13 cases.

From May to July, 280 dengue patients had been treated at the Lepanto Hospital here, Lee said.

In Kalinga, Dr. Roy Gavino, provincial epidemiology and surveillance unit chief, noted an alarming increase in dengue cases in the province since last week.

Gavino said the cases have been reported in the towns of Pinukpuk, Rizal and Tabuk.

In Abra, Dr. Leona Baroña, provincial health officer, said 13 people, mostly schoolchildren, had been hospitalized since July.

Health officials have ordered fogging activities in Sta. Rosa and Lagangilang towns to contain the spread of the *Aedis aegypti* mosquito species that carry the dengue virus.

"These areas are virtual places for . . . an epidemic. After the typhoon, we noticed that the residents had no proper disposal of their excretion, no water supply, no food and no proper houses," said Susan Cabalda, head of the local health assistance division of the regional Department of Health.

The outbreak in Benguet was largely confined in Mankayan, although mild cases were noted in La Trinidad town.

Dr. Esteban Piok, Benguet health officer, said the province needed P50,000 for medicines and at least P250,000 for information drive and fumigation.

Most of the dengue cases in Eastern Visayas were reported in June and July.

The six persons who died brought to nine the recorded deaths in the Visayas attributed to dengue fever. Three persons died of the disease in Negros Occidental last month.

DOH records showed that dengue fever cases were found in all provinces of Eastern Visayas.

Leyte was the most affected with 144 cases, including the six persons who succumbed to the disease. ***Nathan Alcantara with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Subic whale dies

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—One of the five false killer whales featured in a marine park here died before noon on Monday.

The exact cause of death is still unknown but in a press statement, the Subic Bay Ocean Adventure said the animal, called "Deuce," was "treated for a secondary bacterial infection complicated by a viral problem."

The statement said Deuce first showed signs of lack of appetite and was somewhat sluggish last Thursday. Since then, marine mammal experts had monitored his condition round the clock.

"His trainers and our animal care experts took blood samples. (He) was given medication, fluids and monitored round the clock," it said.

A necropsy was done to determine the exact cause of his death, the statement said.

The marine park administrators said laboratory tests conducted on the other animals showed no indication of health problems.

They gave assurance that they would continue to closely monitor the animals' condition.

"At this point, we have found no indication that the virus is contagious," the statement said.

Deuce is one of five *Pseudorca crassidents* or false killer whales featured in the whale encounter program of the Subic Bay Ocean Adventure, which opened in March.

He was a 7-year-old male, weighed 330 kilos and measured 3.5 meters long.

The whales arrived in the country on Jan. 20. ***Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Search for Bentain turns comic, weird

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BACOLOR, Pampanga—The exact location had been pinpointed. There had been four witnesses. The diggings had been relentless in the last four weeks.

But why have the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and, in the last seven days, the National Bureau of Investigation, not found the grisly evidence of Edgar Bentain's murder in January 1999?

Reason: The metal detector of the search team, according to NBI Regional Director Rolando Dizon.

"We finally got one last week, but it reacts even to bottle caps," Dizon told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

The device, which Dizon borrowed from a friend in the mining business, lent the search a comic tone.

"Every time it sends off an alarm tone, our agents come rushing to the spot. They end up dismayed because what it detected was only a bottle cap," he said, chuckling.

Isafp and NBI agents are actually searching for a metal drum where Bentain was supposedly encased alive in cement. The drum was dumped at the foot of the Cabetican Bridge on the night of Jan. 16, 1999, according to Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, a civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Mawanay has confessed to taking part in the abduction of Bentain, a casino employee who went missing after he allegedly released a videotape of then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat in the casino.

Dizon said the Department of Public Works and Highways was lending them a "real, honest-to-goodness" metal detector later this week.

The hunt for Bentain's body has also been a test of resilience.

NBI agent Narciso Peña recalled having to quarrel with government engineers whenever requests were made for excavation equipment.

"I've made the requests to the mayors. I have to repeat the request all over again simply because these were not relayed to the municipal engineers. But even if these were relayed, the equipment were released late," he said.

Convicted drug dealer rearrested in Bulacan

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A woman convicted twice for big-time drug-dealing and whose escape from Camp Crame in June baffled authorities was rearrested Monday in Bulacan, the Pampanga police reported Tuesday.

Rosalinda Manimbo, alias "Mama Rose," was arrested by Pampanga police intelligence and regional narcotics agents in Barangay Sto. Niño in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Manimbo had evaded arrest by changing hideouts in various parts of Central Luzon, the last of which was Guiguinto, Bulacan, according to Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director.

Supt. Gil Pacia, who led the raiding team, said Manimbo, 56, assumed the name Rosalinda Manansala in their latest reports.

Since the early 1990s, Manimbo had been in the police list of most wanted people in Angeles City.

Her links with big Chinese drug traders had helped her escape from the Philippine National Police's Narcotics Command detention cell in Camp Crame after operatives seized from her 489 grams of shabu (methampethamine hydrochloride), sources said.

With that volume in her possession, she was not allowed to post bail under the illegal drugs law. The law only allows bail for persons caught with 200 grams or less of illegal drugs.

Pacia said Manimbo had also two pending arrests from the regional trial court's Branch 45 in the City of San Fernando and Branch 49 in Guagua, both in Pampanga, where she was convicted for drug-dealing.

Manimbo was scheduled for inquest before she escaped. She is detained at Camp Olivas and will be turned over to Camp Crame today. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

American shoots self, dies

BY GERRY PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—An American shot himself with a .45 cal. pistol inside an indoor shooting range here on Thursday in what police said was a case of suicide.

Paul Matthew Mulligan, 34, died on arrival at the Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital, minutes after he allegedly committed suicide inside the Village Indoor Shooting Range on Arnaldo Boulevard around 1:30 p.m.

Mulligan, single, of New Jersey, who arrived here from Boracay Island in Aklan on July 24, had a lone bullet wound below the chin.

Police said Mulligan went to the shooting range and requested a .45 cal. pistol and 100 rounds of live bullets. Range officer Ben Navarro accompanied him to the target area.

After firing for several minutes and with his gun down to its last load of magazine, Mulligan suddenly pointed the gun's muzzle at his chin and squeezed the trigger, police said.

It was too late for Navarro, who was just behind Mulligan, to stop the American, police said.

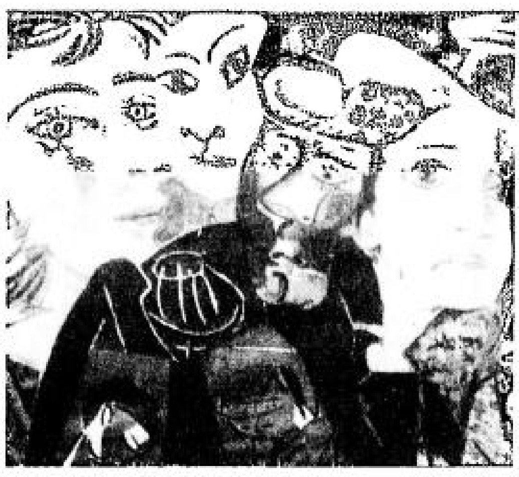
Supt. Ildefonso Catedral, city police chief, said a suicide note dated July 25 was inside Mulligan's room at the Beehive Inn and Restaurant on Plaridel Street. The American had occupied the room since 10 a.m. of July 24.

The note read "I'm so very sorry." On its upper portion was written "All in the USA" telephone numbers of Kristi and Joe, and Scott, who turned out to be Mulligan's siblings, and a couple named Christine and Rich.

Catedral said Roxas Councilor Alan Celino, owner of the shooting range, had informed Mulligan's family about the incident.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▣ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief



DETAIL from Fern's "Picasso's Women."

The world according to Fern Fox

BY ELIZABETH LOLARGA

THAT saying about God closing a door and opening another window applies to the life of collagist and Baguio personality Fernande "Fern" Azerad Fox.

Her collages and those of Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado are on exhibit at the Maryknoll Sanctuary Gallery in Campo Sioco until Aug. 2.

Also participating in the show are book artists Leonard Aguinaldo, Erlyn Ruth Alcantara, Bencab, Clemente Delim, Nida Dumsang, Michael J. Parsons, Rishab, Mark Tandayog and Delfin Tolentino Jr.

An operation on her larynx left Fern speechless in 1975. Husband Robert, the American anthropologist who did work on the Tabon Caves in Palawan, suffered a stroke in the same year and also lost his speech. They communicated through their "sense of humor, through love and laughter," she always anticipating her needs.

"He could not write anymore, but his brain was perfect. He could walk and was never on a wheelchair, but he was sick for 10 years," she recalled. Dr. Fox died in 1985.

Collage

After her operation, Fern, then 52, felt depressed, so she started to cut magazine pictures and paste them on cardboard without realizing that her activity had a name–collage.

Her first collage was on mime artist Marcel Marceau. "I'm a big admirer of his work. I've seen him perform in France, New York and Manila. In 1969 when I first saw him, I was far away from even thinking that I would one day lose my voice," she said.

She now uses a special microphone that she puts on her throat to enable her to speak.

Born in Algiers in 1917 when Algeria was still a department of France, she went to live with a millionaire aunt in Casablanca, Morocco, when she turned 14. Aunt Olga Tabet even piloted her own plane.

At 17, Fern married a Frenchman. She divorced him in 1945, and married Brony Landau, a Metro Goldwyn Mayer executive for Southeast Asia and cousin of actor Martin.

She studied for a few years at the Sorbonne in Paris, taking up languages. She speaks Spanish, English and French fluently, can understand but not speak Italian, and is now learning Portuguese through the Portuguese channel on cable TV.

Brony died in Manila in 1969.

Fern met Dr. Fox, who was then married to the sister of her best friend, at this same friend's house in Manila. He was caring for his grandson Glenn. Then 3 years old, Glenn was the first to fall in love with Fern, addressing her as "Auntie Darling." He immediately felt attached to her to the point that his grandfather, by then divorced from his wife for 12 years already, told her, "We cannot help it. We ought to get married."

Glenn did not want to go home with him; rather, he wanted to sleep in Fern's room.

Whirlwind romance

The Foxes had a whirlwind romance. They lived together for two years in Manila before getting married in Hong Kong in December 1972. From 1971 to 1973, they stayed in Palawan where Dr. Fox dug in the Tabon Caves.

In 1973, they moved to Amparo Heights in Baguio City for the good climate so he could write. But he wound up teaching anthropology at Brent School and the University of the Philippines College Baguio.

In 1976, Fern set up a French restaurant named after her on Cariño Street in Baguio, with recipes from her kitchen. Dr. Fox liked to eat there and see how the business was doing. This kept him occupied until his death.

The restaurant folded up in 1986. By that time the situation in the Philippines changed. The American servicemen, her regular clients, were disallowed from going out of Camp John Hay to eat.

But her friends, Des and Auring Bautista, plan to open a French restaurant at Iggy's Inn on South Drive in Baguio. They asked if they could name it after her again since Fernande is known to Baguio oldtimers.

Her worst setback was the death of Glenn due to dengue. "To lose a child is terrible, especially when I was not able to have a child biologically, and he came to me in my 50s like a miracle. And he died because of a stupid mosquito. He was a very good son. He showed me affection, calling me Mommy and Dr. Fox, Daddy. We adopted him legally. I was brokenhearted when he died. I couldn't cope," she said.

Coping

These days she finds ways of coping by playing bridge and the piano, reading biographies and novels, studying ballroom dancing and *tai chi*.

She is spry enough to do the boogie, swing, chacha, reggae, samba and tango. "But I don't dance with anybody," she qualified. "I just follow the instructor."

Collages relax her most because of their pleasant colors. "I don't have any talent for creation. I can draw but not so well. That's why I enjoy collage."

The artists she draws inspiration from are Matisse, Chagall and Picasso.

She attributes her long life to a diet of fish, tofu and plenty of vegetables, no red meat whatsoever. "I don't smoke. I don't drink. I would drink at parties socially not by myself."

In the notes to the exhibition, Erlyn Ruth wrote of Fern, "Using collages to create visual diaries helps to keep fading recollections from vanishing into oblivion and teaches us to honor those moments that once animated our lives. Fern's works demonstrate that art making can be uncomplicated and that collage is an accessible form of creative expression: intimate and best of all, fun."

Name game in the North

BY FRANK CIMATU
Pangasinan

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

GERTRUDE Stein once said, "Rose is a rose is a rose." But to Northern Luzon travelers, that should be "Rose is Sta. Rosa is Rosales."

People who took notes of villages they visited in Rosales, Pangasinan, would know that the biggest barangay there is Carmen. In fact, there is Carmen East and Carmen West. Old movie fans would also love to point out that "Carmen Rosales" is a famous actress in the 1950s and 1960s, so whoever thought of Carmen in Rosales must have a sense of humor.

There is a Pilar town in Abra, but there is no village named "Pilapil" or "Pepe."

Alicia town in Isabela has no Alonzo village, only Aurora, Antonino and Mataas na Kahoy.

There are Rizal towns in Cagayan and Kalinga, but there is no village named "Jose" or even "Paciano." Ivana in Batanes has no village named Trump.

Jones town in Isabela has no Jack, James or Marion. In fact, the only thing that made Jones famous lately was the ambush of an Army colonel and a group of soldiers there last year.

There is Luna, La Union, and Luna, Apayao, but no village is named Juan or Antonio there.

Yankee talk

But if you're a lover of place names, North and Central Luzon have lots to interest you.

Back to Rosales. You have barangays named Bakitbakit, Casanicolasan and Colliling, a nice retirement place for we-know-who. Of course, there is also a village called Baliw in Sinait, Ilocos Sur, but you pronounce it slow and it means "change" in Ilocano.

You want to have an American address? Try Haway in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan; Twin Peaks in Tuba, Benguet; Ambassador in Tublay, Benguet; Viewpoint in Banaue, Ifugao; Dewey and Victory in Bolinao, Pangasinan; Maui in Delfin Albano, Isabela; Sanafe also in Banaue (the way the New Mexicans pronounce their beloved Sta. Fe); Colorado and Guam in San Guillermo, Isabela; Indiana and Homestead in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya; Peru and New Orlins (that's the right spelling) in Lasam, Cagayan; and Alaska in Aringay, La Union.

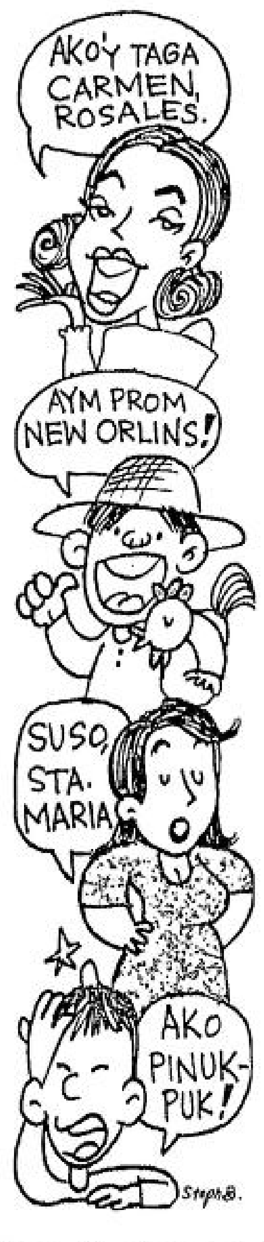
There is Consular in Angadanan, Isabela, and Bone North and South in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. Also in Nueva Vizcaya, there is Alloy, Bilet, Cordon and Dine villages in Kasibu town. Smart is a village in Gonzaga, Cagayan.

You want to sound English? Try the Loo in Buguias, Benguet. Want to be French? Try Cafe in Concepcion, Tarlac.

You want to find the most violent places, at least in their names? Try Pinukpuk in Kalinga, which means "pounding" or "hammering." There are villages there named, aptly enough, Mapaco, Pinococ and Taga.

Mapaco, of course, means there are many ferns there, but to Filipinos, it means there are many nails to hammer.

Sacrifice Valley is in Hermosa, Bataan. Beckel, a village in La Trinidad, Benguet, means "to strangle" in Ilocano. There is an Upper and Lower Maton in Pudtol, Apayao. Bugbog village in Bucay, Abra becomes Cabugbugan in Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac, and Binabalian in Candelaria, Zambales.


AKO'Y TAGA CARMEN, ROSALES.
AYM PROM NEW ORLINS!
SUSO, STA. MARIA
AKO PINUK-PUK!
Steph.B.

And if you want out, post the "Bail" in Sto. Tomas, La Union and "Abogado" barangay in Paniqui, Tarlac.

Then there is Caba, La Union, which brings out a whole new game. *Saan* Caba? *Sa* Bautista, Caba? *May* Gana, Caba? Cornelio, Caba? Wenceslao, Caba?

Anda, an island town in Pangasinan, also means money in "gayspeak" but the only moneyed village there is Roxas or a P100 bill.

Sex change

It's sad that Sexmoan, Pampanga, changed its name to a more boring Sasmuan and Bayag in Apayao to Calanasan. Because there are places called Bulbol in Rizal, Kalinga; Matalaib in Tarlac City; Suso in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur; and Tition in Palauig, Zambales.

The shortest name for villages in Northern and Central Luzon are Pao (Camiling, Tarlac); Aga (Pudtol, Apayao), Tue (Tadian, Mt. Province), Ver and Foz (Dingras, Ilocos Norte); Ano (San Carlos City) and Ara (Benito Soliven, Isabela).

The longest arguably is Longos-Amangonan-Parac-Parac-Fabrica (now more known as Longos), in San Fabian, Pangasinan.

This being a Catholic country, saints dominate as place names, more so in Ilocos Sur where all the barangays in two towns, Sarrat and San Nicolas, are named after saints.

Pampanga also has a "Bible belt" where the towns of San Luis, San Simon, Sta. Rita and Sta. Ana all have barangays named after saints. Rizal, Osmeña, Magsaysay, Marcos and Imelda are the most famous village names in these areas.

There is even a Marcos town in Ilocos Norte, by virtue of Republic Act No. 3755 authored by former Rep. Simeon Valdez of the province's second district in 1963.

That's why there are Ferdinand, Fortuna and Lydia barangays in that town. Agunit was renamed as Pacifico, Capariaan as Imelda and Culao as Elizabeth to complete the Marcos showcase. Pacifico, Fortuna and Elizabeth are Ferdinand's siblings.

Enrile in Cagayan, contrary to popular belief, was not named after former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile but in honor of Governor General Pascual Enrile, who was responsible for the construction of roads in Northern Luzon.

Cagayan towns love the word Fuga or Fugo so much that five towns there have villages named Fuga and Fugo. But little did you know that in Nagtipunan, Quirino, there is a place named San Pugo or San Ramos.

Gonzaga, a town in Cagayan, is one optimistic place because they have villages like Flourishing, Progressive, Paradise and Rebecca. The hot town of Bustos in Bulacan has a village named Malamig.

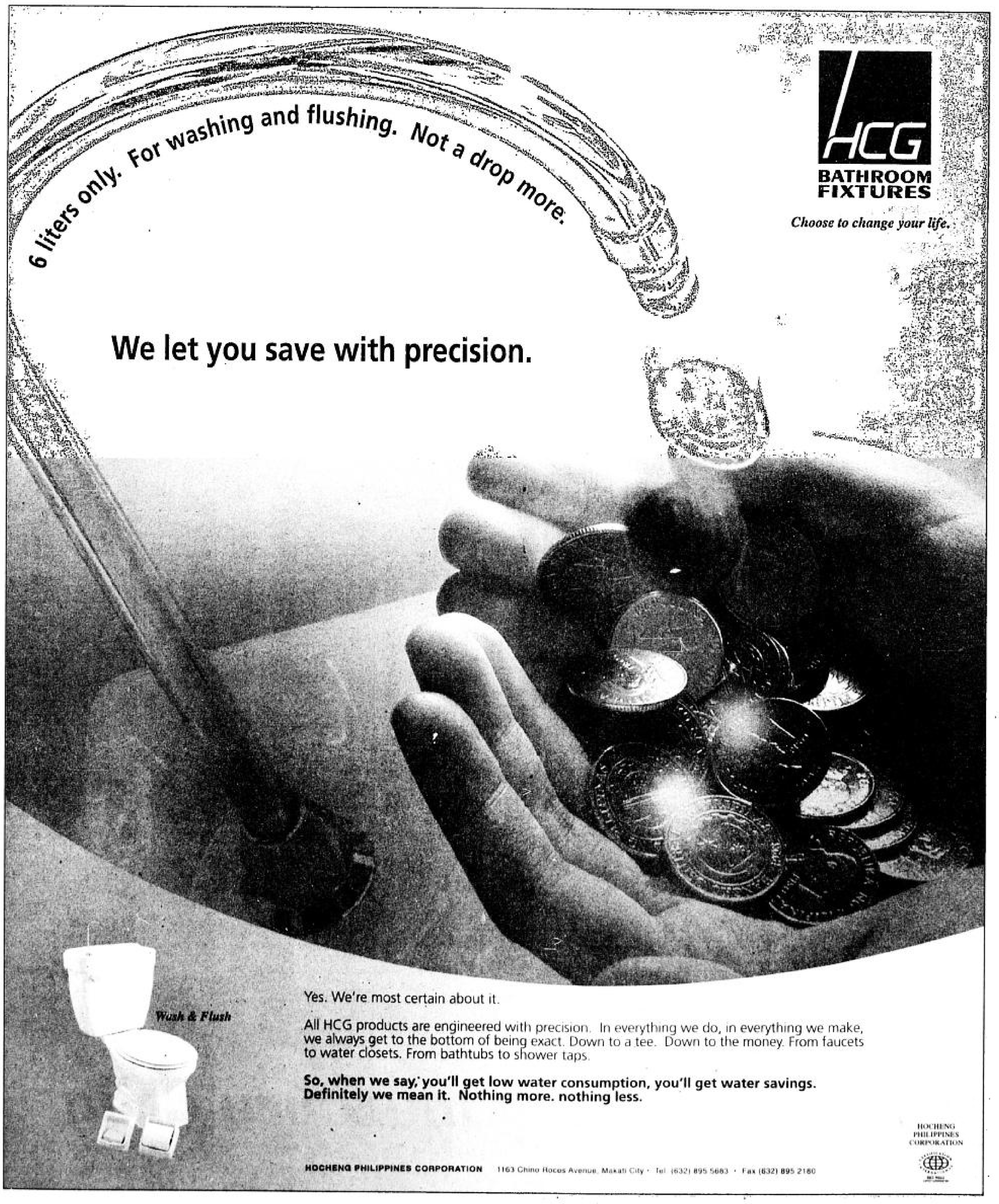
Tongue twisters

There are so many tongue-twisting names like Tubtuba, Tubo (Abra); Northern Kababuyan (Hingyon, Ifugao); Kita-kita (Mabini, Pangasinan); Mapisi, Nagbukel (Ilocos Sur); Banbanaal, Banayoyo (Ilocos Sur); Matalipitap, Paniqui (Tarlac); Rotrottooc, Mayantoc (Tarlac), Mallalatang Tunggui, Reina Mercedes (Isabela); Dimasari and Dimalicu-licu in Palanan, Isabela; and Mozzozzin Sur and North in Sta. Maria, also in Isabela.

We could go on but the sad thing is that civilization in the form of uniformity is killing these distinct place names.

Aquiliquilao, a village in Iguig, Cagayan, has been changed to Manaoag. Laoag City, for example, is now known through Barrio Uno to Trese.

In fact, if Aparri is the northernmost place in Luzon, why then are its barangays named Central 1 to 15?



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SSS chief faces ax, reassignment

(From page A1)

ing firm had confirmed these "behest investments", and had sent a report to Malacañang and the Presidential Commission Against Corruption.

"Administrative, civil or criminal liability will have to be established among SSS executives in accordance with existing laws," he said.

In reaction, Templo challenged Nañagas to disclose the findings of the audit report and file the necessary charges against those implicated.

He said Nañagas made the allegation simply to justify clinging to the post.

"Let (the audit findings) be submitted to our commission for proper scrutiny and disposition," said Templo, who also stressed that the transactions of the SSS investor group were open to the public for examination.

Templo, along with other senior officials, has reportedly been named accessory in the investigation conducted by Nañagas regarding the transactions entered into by Nañagas' predecessor, Carlos Arellano, in behalf of then President Joseph Estrada.

"The former SSS president admitted as much in his affidavit in the case involving (the gaming firm) Belle Corp.," Nañagas said.

Privatization

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said Monday that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had formulated a solution to the problem and was expected to announce it yesterday.

But Camacho said that while he had found a solution, he would only announce it today.

SSS insiders said Estrada appointees were spearheading the protests and were using the issue of the agency's privatization, which they had attributed to Nañagas, to justify their demand for his ouster.

Nañagas said that since his appointment to the SSS in January, all his efforts were directed at instituting the necessary reforms through the "Covenant of Service."

He said the initiative was designed exclusively by SSS employees and was aimed at instituting transparency and hastening the delivery of services.

"Unfortunately, my efforts at good governance have met with stiff resistance from the union," he said. "Initially, they raised the issue of privatization. When I said that it would not happen, they refused to listen."

Nañagas lamented that while the employees wanted him out because of his leadership style, they had "looked the other way" when the SSS was losing billions of pesos during the Estrada administration.

He said some executives "who may be hiding their incompetence or who committed some malfeasance in the previous administration" were apparently using Access to oust him.

The SSS, one of the major investors in the equities market, was reported to have lost heavily when it purchased shares in Belle Corp.

Arellano had admitted that the investments were made on Estrada's orders.

Templo, a career executive, had previously worked harmoniously with Nañagas.

SSS insiders said he broke off from Nañagas on the issue of the pay cut that Malacañang had ordered state-run corporations to implement.

On top of that, insiders said, Templo got wind that he was implicated in the investigation that Nañagas had initiated.

Nañagas' basic pay is reportedly less than half of what Templo is getting as SSS executive vice president and chief actuary.

Credentials

Asked whether he would yield to the demand for his resignation, Nañagas said: "Do we negotiate out of reason or do we negotiate rationally? If the demand is unreasonable, should we give in?"

With the privatization issue put to an end, Access had directed its protests to Nañagas' supposed "poor management style."

But Nañagas pointed out that rank-and-file employees should not judge his management style because he had not directly dealt with them.

Prior to his appointment at the SSS, Nañagas was president and CEO of the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Global Business Bank. He was also president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

He also worked with Citibank in various capacities, among these as marketing director for Latin America for Citibank in New York and president of the Citicorp Investments Philippines.

But Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said the President should heed the SSS employees' demand for Nañagas' ouster.

He said she should replace Nañagas "because he is clearly unwanted and disliked by SSS employees."

"The operations of the SSS will never proceed smoothly so long as the employees remain disgruntled and offended by the head executive," Beltran said.

Forbearance

The Partido ng Manggagawa said the Civil Service Commission should exercise forbearance toward the SSS workers' continuing walkout.

"If (the President) is accorded her constitutional right to succession in an extralegal upheaval to oust Estrada, why should (the government) not allow state employees with legitimate grievances to call for the resignation of their immediate superior through concerted actions?" said Renato Magtubo, the group's chair.

Magtubo said that in the spirit of social justice, the government should refrain from applying "the rigid letter of the law" regarding the right to strike of public-sector employees.

"Gloria Arroyo should be reminded that the issue at hand is a gut issue since it involves billions (of pesos) in workers' contributions," Magtubo said, adding:

"Organized labor would not hesitate to launch direct action in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the SSS." ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Elena R. Torrijos and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

200 Goma supporters hold rally

(From page A1)

should not be retroactive," Gomez said.

Gomez nevertheless said MAD's lawyers would file a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court to contest the Comelec en banc ruling on the disqualification of MAD and 16 other groups.

Based on the latest party-list canvass, MAD garnered 1.4 million votes or 9.9 percent of the total party-list votes cast in the May 14 elections. Under the party-list system, MAD is entitled to a maximum of three seats in the House.

Not marginalized

In a 47-page report to the Supreme Court, the Comelec said MAD "does not appear to represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors."

The poll body noted that MAD was clearly an entity funded or assisted by the government, a ground for disqualification based on the high court's guidelines.

The Comelec said MAD's dealings with the government were not with the Dangerous Drugs Board but with the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center (NDLEPC).

"It was in fact originally conceptualized by Police Director Jewel Canson merely as a campaign vehicle in the drug awareness program of the (NDLEPC) Center," the Comelec said.

Canson said MAD was a non-government organization that helped the government in its anti-drug awareness campaign. He also denied that MAD received money from the government.

No government money

"This issue came out only when it became clear that MAD won overwhelmingly in the party-list elections," Canson said. "These were never raised against MAD before the elections."

Gomez complained that MAD had not received a copy of the Comelec ruling sent to the Supreme Court on July 27.

Chief Supt. (Ret.) Jewel Canson, former executive director of the NDLEPC, said MAD only learned of its disqualification through newspaper reports.

"Benipayo said the Comelec report was still classified but why was it all over the papers?" Canson said.

"It's supposed to be confidential but it came out in the papers so how can it be confidential?" Gomez said.

Reacting to the statement of 23rd placer Sanlakas, which scoffed at Gomez's plan to mobilize a large number of people, Gomez said the militant group was only after getting a seat by pushing for the disqualification of winning groups.

"Sanlakas does not deserve to be there because it did not get the required minimum of 2 percent," Gomez said.

He denied an INQUIRER report that he threatened to use "people power" to block the proclamation of the winners in the party-list race.

"I did not say that," Gomez told reporters. "They (INQUIRER) just sensationalized it."

Gomez said he supported a petition filed by 34 losing party-list groups under the Coalition of Marginalized Party-list Groups (CPAG) asking the Comelec to declare a failure of the party-list elections due to alleged massive fraud.

CPAG proposed that the new party-list elections be held simultaneously with the barangay elections on May 13, 2002.

Midway the protest, the leader of an organization of parents of drug dependents under rehabilitation appealed to the Comelec commissioners to place themselves in their shoes.

"How will they feel if they have family members who are victims of drug abuse?" the speaker said. "These are the marginalized people they are looking for."

Gomez and his supporters later marched from the Comelec in Intramuros to the Supreme Court building in Ermita.

In Ilagan, Isabela, a party-list nominee of the Nationalist People's Coalition assailed the Comelec decision disqualifying 18 party-list groups.

Former Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III described as "leftists" almost all of the seven party-list groups that passed the Comelec review. ***With reports from Cathy Yamsuan in Manila and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Militants decry hate drive vs Bayan

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

MILITANTS yesterday accused the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada and certain military officials of exploiting the disqualification of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) to support the hate campaign against leftist group Bayan Muna.

"Actor Richard Gomez is sourgraping for the sudden twist of fate brought about by the disqualification of his party list. The actor is raising a point on a twisted basis and crooked reasoning," Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said.

"(But) beyond Comelec's disenfranchisement of MAD, the actor has been acting as the official spokesperson of the Estrada camp and the anti-Bayan Muna generals who wish to discredit and kick the activist party list out of Congress," he said.

But the fisherfolk group did not spare the Commission on Elections from criticism.

Pamalakaya spokesperson Manolito Serrano said had the Comelec responded to calls made by legitimate party-list groups before the elections to disqualify those that did not truly come from marginalized sectors, the controversy could have been averted.

"Bayan Muna has called the attention of Comelec to disqualify major political groups and bogus party list groups from participating in the May 14 polls under the party-list system, but the poll body chose to ignore the petition and proceeded in accrediting over a hundred party lists," he said.

Serrano said the party-list Bayan Muna laid down the grounds for disqualification based on rules and criteria set by the Party-list Law three months before the elections.

In particular Bayan Muna said MAD was a government-funded group. Bayan Muna also questioned the housing group Creba, the sugar planters' group National Federation of Sugar Planters and major political parties like Lakas-NUCD, Nationalist People's Coalition, Promdi, Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Jeep ni Erap, Aksyon Demokratiko, People's Reform Party and PDP-Laban.

"These groups are not marginalized but spin off parties of powerful politicians and big businessmen who want to seek representation in Congress through the party-list system," Serrano said.

But Comelec blew all its chances when it did not act on the petition.

"The controversy surrounding the party list could have been settled if Comelec acted on the petition prior to the May 14 elections," Serrano said.

Pamalakaya said that MAD, Jeep ni Erap and Partido ng Masang Pilipino were pro-Erap parties represented by cohorts of Estrada and that political parties fielded candidates to represent the likes of political "king-maker" Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and President Macapagal-Arroyo, the titular head of Lakas-NUCD.

"Now tell us are these people representing the marginalized?" Pamalakaya said.

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• Lung Month (National Tuberculosis Month)
• Hospital as Centers of Wellness Month
August 1
• Family Planning Day

Bing: I only heard Mike received bribe

(From page A1)

influencing the President into rescinding her veto on bills granting congressional franchises to the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.

The President did not rescind her veto as only Congress can override a presidential veto.

"When I made my statement I was merely laying the premises upon which my resignation was based. However, some sectors of society misunderstood my statement to be accusations against Mike Arroyo," she said.

Asked to clarify what that meant, Boogie Rodrigo said, "what was told to her was that statement that Mike Arroyo and two others were supposed to have intervened."

"That was only what was told to her by someone," the prosecutor said, adding that there was no mention of P50 million.

Rodrigo later identified the Palace staff members as Special Assistant Erlinda de Leon and Ito Los Baños, who has been with Ms Macapagal in the Ninth Congress.

During the ANC program, Boogie Rodrigo was not asked about the person who told his sister that Arroyo had received bribe money.

Asked by TV host Tina Palma if there were attempts to talk to Bing Rodrigo, Boogie said that Cecille Guidote-Alvarez, wife of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, had asked him if his sister was willing to talk the President.

The prosecutor informed Cecille that Bing had already issued the statement.

He disclosed that Cecille Guidote had wanted reconciliation between Bing and her former close friend, the President.

That offer of reconciliation was not turned down but Cecille was told that it "might not look good if they meet at this time and she comes out with a statement," Boogie Rodrigo said.

In the same statement, Ms Macapagal's former correspondence secretary said she would not "dodge" any inquiry into the matter. She said that she would say the same thing and be consistent.

The former Palace correspondence secretary explained that she merely wanted to clear her name. She noted that Arroyo had said in another forum that she was not referring to her as the one who took the money.

Bing Rodrigo said she issued a statement against Arroyo after she felt alluded to when Arroyo said that a resigned secretary worked for the recall of a vetoed bill.

In the statement read by her brother, Bing Rodrigo assured that she would not allow herself to be used by people, "who have taken an interest in this issue more for political reasons than for establishing the truth."

Interviewed after reading the statement, Boogie Rodrigo denied that another brother, lawyer "King" Rodrigo—was a lawyer of PCCI.

Perez cautions GMA

Earlier in the day, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez cautioned Ms Macapagal about her plan to submit an affidavit on the P50-million telecommunications scandal allegedly involving her husband.

Perez warned the President that her affidavit might be misconstrued as an effort to influence the outcome of the investigation that the Office of the Ombudsman intended to finish in seven days.

The President has said she has information on the alleged payoff and volunteered to give it to government investigators, but she has insisted her husband was not involved in the deal and emphasized that the veto on two telecommunication bills was not rescinded.

But hours before Perez's office told reporters about his advice to the President, the Office of the Ombudsman had received from Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. documents referring to two franchise bills vetoed by the President.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto disclosed that the documents included copies of two bills in the House of Representatives granting congressional franchises to the PCCI and APC.

It was not immediately known whether the documents included an affidavit from the President.

The President's affidavit is expected to contain the findings of an inquiry she had ordered immediately after Rodrigo accused the First Gentleman of planning to turn the tables on her.

In a press statement, Perez said he told the President "that it is not necessary for her to issue an affidavit on the so-called exposé of Bing Rodrigo on the telecom bills."

"She might be perceived as exerting influence if she files an affidavit," Perez explained.

Evaluate

Also yesterday morning, Desierto said the documents that Malacañang had furnished his office would first be evaluated to determine whether to proceed with the probe.

Desierto said the evaluation must determine "whether we have jurisdiction (over the alleged payoff)." He assured that the evaluation "will cover everything."

"We did not say that (the President) would be included in the investigation. What we said is if she volunteers to give us information, then we will get her testimony or narrative on the matter," he said.

Desierto said that once his office unearthed evidence showing that the President was involved, Congress must conduct an investigation through impeachment proceedings.

Desierto had earlier told reporters that an investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman was limited to the involvement of public officials in irregularities.

This means that the probe will not include the First Gentleman, a private citizen, unless there is evidence a government official colluded with him, according to Desierto.

The President's husband flew to the United States last week for treatment of bronchitis.

He said in a radio interview from San Francisco on Sunday that he would cut short his trip by four days and return to Manila by Aug. 2, the First Couple's wedding anniversary.

First witness

The Ombudsman plans to call in Rodrigo and Malou Nuñez, a consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication, as its initial witnesses.

He said an expeditious probe was necessary because the case "is developing a political color."

"The anti-graft office shall analyze the outcome of the interview with these two women to determine if any public official committed irregularities," the Ombudsman said.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto, whose public services committee approved the bills, said there was something fishy about the public pronouncements of the telecom companies that supported the veto on the franchise bills.

"We will know if they lobbied for the presidential veto on the bills," Sotto said.

'What I said about Mike was told to me by another source'

(The following is the full statement of Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo read last night on Channel ANC by her brother, Ramon "Boogie" Rodrigo—Ed.)

"ATTY. Mike Arroyo has made a statement to the effect that he was not referring to me when he made the disclosure about a secretary in Malacañang having received money to work for the recall of the President's veto on the two franchise bills.

"I take this to be a confirmation of the fact that, as I said in my own statement, I never had anything to do with those franchise bills one way or the other, let alone accepted any money in consideration therefor.

"For my part, I must reiterate and clarify only exactly what I said in my statement and what the purpose of that statement had been.

"My sole purpose was to clear my name, having felt alluded to by Atty. Arroyo. When I made my statement, I was merely laying the premises upon which my resignation was based. However, some sectors of society misunderstood my said statement to be accusations against Mike Arroyo.

"What I said was *napag-alaman ko*, referring to the fact that what I said about Mike Arroyo were only what was told to me by another source.

"I will not dodge any responsibility to testify in any official inquiry on this matter. However, I will say the same thing and be consistent. But I shall not allow myself to be used by parties who have taken an interest in this issue more for political reasons than for establishing the truth."

My family is devastated and humiliated

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

VERONICA "Bing" Rodrigo said on television last night that she could never again be close to President Macapagal-Arroyo, her elementary and high school classmate.

Asked if her close relationship with Ms Macapagal could be restored, Rodrigo said: "You will know the answer by how I look at you."

Rodrigo, a former correspondence secretary of the President, then glared at broadcaster Cito Beltran during a short segment aired over Channel 2's news program.

Rodrigo has accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, of taking money from two telecommunication firms, which were denied congressional franchises through a presidential veto.

She insisted that she had nothing to do with the controversial franchise bills that some Palace personalities wanted recalled.

"My family is devastated and humiliated," she said when asked how her family was coping with the controversy.

Beltran also asked Rodrigo whether she had any ties with Presidential Legislative Liaison Office chief Gabriel Claudio.

Rodrigo said she considered Claudio and his wife Nenette part of the family.

She said Claudio was a godfather of her youngest daughter, Carmela.

Asked about whether her brother—Socrates "King" Rodrigo Jr.—was a lawyer for Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., she said that it would be better if her brother answered that.

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Sellout crowd watches Kournikova's return

CARLSBAD, California—Anna Kournikova, playing her first tournament since February, returned with Martina Hingis to win a doubles match on opening night of the Acura Classic.

Kournikova and Hingis, who is ranked No. 1 in the world in singles, defeated Leizel Huber of South Africa and Laura Montalvo of Argentina 6-1, 6-1 Monday.

Kournikova said she was impressed that a sellout crowd watched the match so early in the week.

The Russian had been recovering from a stress fracture in her left foot since losing a quarterfinal match in the Gaz de France in Paris to eventual tournament winner Amelie Mauresmo.

Although Kournikova has yet to win a singles title on the women's tour, she and Hingis have a string of nine doubles victories in 11 tournaments since they teamed for the 1999 Australian Open. They have a 45-2 record.

Hingis, top seeded in singles here and No. 1 in WTA rankings, will debut in singles Tuesday against Lilia Osterloh of Columbus, Ohio. Kournikova will play a night match against Nicole Pratt of Australia.

The field includes the top five players in the world: Hingis; Jennifer Capriati, moved up to second by the WTA on Monday; No. 3 Venus Williams; No. 4 Lindsey Davenport; and No. 5 Kim Clijsters of Belgium.

In singles on Monday, Sandra Cacic beat Kim-Anh Nguyen 6-2, 6-3; Luxembourg's Anne Kremer beat Zimbabwe's Cara Black 6-2, 6-1; Lilia Osterloh eliminated France's Virginia Razzano 3-6, 6-0, 6-2; Australia's Nicole Pratt beat New Zealand's Pavlina Nola 6-3, 6-2; and Chanda Rubin routed Russia's Tatiana Panova 6-0, 6-3. *AP*

Rafter rallies for victory

MONTREAL—Patrick Rafter revved up his game three weeks after losing the Wimbledon final, rallying for a three-set victory here Monday in the first round of an ATP Masters Series event.

The two-time US Open champion from Australia defeated Israel's Harel Levy 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-3, at the $2.95-million hardcourt event, then said he could still feel a lift from his efforts at the All-England Club.

"I've been able to bring along some of my Wimbledon momentum," Rafter said. "It was a relief to get through that match."

Rafter, who lost last year's Wimbledon final to Pete Sampras and this year's to Goran Ivanisevic, said he likes his game but still lacks a touch of motivation as he contemplates retirement early next year.

"It's hard for me to pick up my intensity when I need to," said the 28-year-old Queenslander. "I feel good about my game. If I can get my mind into it here, I think I can have a good tournament."

Another Aussie standout, fifth seed Lleyton Hewitt, got into trouble in what had been looking like a pro forma outing against Canadian wild card Simon Larose, stumbling to a 6-0, 5-7, 6-3 first-rouund triumph.

KOURNIKOVA (left) with Hingis during their match Tuesday in the Acura tennis Classic in Carlsbad, Calif. The duo defeated Leizel Huber and Laura Montalvo 6-1, 6-1. AP

Monico to GMA: Restore PSC funds

By Rocky Nazareno

PUENTEVELLA

FORMER Philippine Sports Commission official and now-Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to restore funds that rightfully belong to the PSC.

The former PSC commissioner said the funds had been diverted to other agencies in the last two administrations.

In a privilege speech, Puentevella lamented that Republic Act 6847, which created the PSC in 1990, was not being properly implemented with the siphoning of funds "that find their way to the President's Social Fund."

Under RA 6847, 5 percent of the gross income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. should go to the PSC for the support of the athletes and its sports programs.

However, in 1994, he alleged that then President Fidel Ramos ''made an internal arrangement with Pagcor and PSC that only half of the monthly PSC financial assistance will be granted and the other half to be placed in the President's Social Fund.''

''(This) was for himself to disburse at his discretion (for projects) also intended for sports and for the President to also grant the same to PSC in case of necessity,'' Puentevella said.

Puentevella said, ''this internal arrangement was effective at that time since former President Ramos actually gave more to PSC then than what was intended for the sake of our athletes and for the love of the game.''

According to Puentevella, ''the picture totally changed when President Joseph Estrada took over.''

Under the Estrada administration, not even half of the PSC funds reached the agency, he said.

''It simply means that our athletes have become victims of this malpractice, making a mockery of the laws of the land,'' Puentevella said.

Worse, Puentevella warned that the Palarong Pambansa may be cancelled anew because of the lack of funds.

''The Palarong Pambansa is the most genuine grassroots sports program. Without the Palaro, what happens to our children?'' he said.

On interpellation, Puentevella said it was time that the sports sector focus on the honing of young athletes aged 5 to 15.

''As of now, our focus is on the athletes who are already 18 to 25, which is past the training stage,'' he told Congress.

Mt. Malarayat shocks Wack Wack

MT. MALARAYAT shocked defending champion Wack Wack while Tagaytay Highlands also launched its bid on a high note with its own upset victory in the five matches kicking off the 2001 Federation League in various courses over the weekend.

Delasin on ESPN

CATCH Dorothy Delasin capture her second straight LPGA Giant Eagle Classic as ESPN broadcasts the final round tonight at 10.

The Batañguenos rode on big wins by Abe Avena-Mike Carr in scramble play and Gerald Katigbak-Pitong Quiocho in the newly-introduced high-low format to post a 2.5-1.5 victory.

The Titleist-Footjoy-backed Highlands squad, meanwhile, grabbed a piece of the opening day limelight with a rousing 3-1 conquest of Mimosa-CDC through the tandems of Dan Salvador-Dennis Valdez, Mike Cedo-Jenz Tecson and Popoy Flores-F. Tecson.

Sta. Elena and Canlubang pulled off expected victories but former champion Riviera was held to a surprise 2-2 draw by Orchard in the other matches.

With Iggy Clavecilla, Jingy Tuason and Luigi Tabuena at the helm, Sta. Elena gave league newcomer Eastridge a baptism of fire to remember after a 4-0 shutout.

Canlubang joined the opening-day winners with a 3-1 trampling of Valley with a team built around Abe Rosal and Tony Olives.

Wack Wack, playing without the now-professional Gerard Cantada, took a big blow in scramble play when Bones Floro and Jack Duavit lost to Avena and Carr.

This week's matches pit early favorite against Sta. Elena, Eastridge versus Orchard, Forest Hills-Mimosa, Highlands-Malarayat and Manila Golf-Alabang.

Woods, Sorenstam prevail

PALM DESERT, California—In a made-for-TV event that allowed the best two women players to join Tiger Woods and David Duval in prime time, blustery wind made the quartet of major championship winners look like they were struggling to make the cut.

The only drama was the end.

Annika Sorenstam made a 3 meter (10-foot) birdie putt on the 18th to extend the alternate-shot match, then she and Woods completed their late comeback with a par on the first extra hole to defeat Duval and Karrie Webb. "The only putt I made," Sorenstam said. *AP*

UTILCO FOOTBALL

Navy swamps San Beda

NAVY blasted San Beda,4-0, on Sunday to make it three in a row in the 1st Army-Utilco International invitational football tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Gary Viliaran, Rock Clint Viliaran, Paul Torres and Narciso Rosima struck in the 16th, 22nd, 74th and 87th minutes, respectively, to help the Navymen keep their unblemished record in Group A of the 10-team tourney organized by Philippine Army, sponsored by Utilco International Trading and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

Highly rated Air Force powdered PCU (Dasmariñas), 14-0, later in the day to improve its frontrunning record in Group B to three wins and one draw.

Yanti Versales, Ian Araneta and Edzel Bracamonte propelled the rout by combining for 12 goals. Versales knocked in five, Araneta had four and Bracamonte contributed three.

Far Eastern University trimmed College of St. Benilde, 3-1, while PCU (Taft) crushed University of Asia & the Pacific, 11-0, in the other contests.

Kirk Magbal, Rufino Armodalon and Jing Jambre produced FEU's markers, while Niño Zayco accounted for CSB's lone goal. Randy Salisat starred for PCU (Taft) with three goals, while teammates R. Buyco and D. Visca scored two each.

Garcia defeats favored Cabalinan

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jess Garcia celebrated his return to local karting with a smashing victory over series leader Jeff Cabalinan and perennial contender Pepon Marave to rule the sixth leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Garcia, who missed the previous leg in Carmona, Cavite due to other commitments last month, came back strong in the third and final heat to clinch top honors in this annual series presented by Carmona Circuit Phils. in cooperation with Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

The Cebu-based Garcia and Cabalinan duelled like champions and emerged triumphant at the end of the 16-lap race at the tough and demanding 2.8 kilometer course. He clocked a fast time of 13:18.49 against Cabalinan's 13:24.983 and Marave's 13:49.201.

Rounding out the top five finishers in the Formula Super A category were Manuel Mayo and Philip Alvendia.

The father and son tandem of Lee and Mark Bumgarner also made their presence felt with impressive performances in this event also sponsored by Coca-Cola, Nokia, Bridgestone, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Demvel's Enterprises and Eastway Racing.

Lee Bumgarner defeated Bert Neuhof, Mike Francisco, Mike Sy and Angelo Barrettò to rule the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125 and Rotax Challenge, while Mark Bumgarner overwhelmed Batsy Aggabao, Michelle Bumgarner, Dado Peña and Tyson Sy to dominate the Kt. Jr.

In the team race, Demvel's defeated Kart 1 and ARC-Tony Kart.

The other notable winners were Mario Cunanan, Donovan Yu, Edgar Quesada, Tyson Sy and Ken Monzoner.

Cunanan outclassed Allan Uy and Bingo Valero in the intercon category; Yu whipped Jeremy Marquez and J.P. Carino in the FSL Light; Quesada humbled Tim Gosnell and Philip Rubio in the Kt. Heavy; Sy demolished Marty Aguilar and Mark Bumgarner in the cadet 85cc; and Monzoner outlasted Buffy Laurel and Lenjay Paulino in the cadet 60cc.

The awarding of trophies and cash prizes was held immediately after the races.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	64	41	600	—
Boston	60	44	577	3 1/2
Toronto	48	58	.453	16 1/2
Baltimore	44	62	415	20 1/2
Tampa Bay	34	71	324	30
Central				
Cleveland	60	44	.577	—
Minnesota	60	45	.571	1/2
Chicago	51	52	.495	8 1/2
Detroit	45	58	.437	14 1/2
Kansas City	41	64	.391	19 1/2
West				
Seattle	76	29	.724	—
Oakland	56	49	533	20
Anaheim	53	52	505	23
Texas	47	58	448	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	60	45	.571	—
Philadelphia	57	48	.543	3
Florida	52	52	.500	7 1/2
NY Mets	49	57	.462	11 1/2
Montreal	45	61	.425	15 1/2
Central				
Chicago Cubs	61	43	.587	—
Houston	57	48	.543	4 1/2
St. Louis	52	51	.505	8 1/2
Milwaukee	45	58	.437	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	41	63	.394	20
Cincinnati	41	63	.394	20
West				
Los Angeles	61	45	.575	—
Arizona	59	46	.562	1 1/2
San Francisco	57	48	.538	4
San Diego	51	54	.486	9 1/2
Colorado	44	61	419	16 1/2

Only one game scheduled
American League
Texas 6, Baltimore 4, 11 innings. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: CART Target Grand Prix of Chicago at 8:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
Race Day—German Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 F1 World Championships—German Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag—F1 German Grand Prix at midnight (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. on ESPN
Golf Classics Magnificent 8—Royal Troon at midnight on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup, Finals at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

10 YEARS AGO

THE PHILIPPINES' Rene Reyes and Efren Guerrero won top honors in the 17th Hong Kong International Open bowling championships in the Crown Colony. The duo combined for 1357 pinfalls in doubles play to scoop 6 gold medals.

* * *

MARILEE Estampador beat Michelle Reyes to bag the women's foil in the 3rd Martini Fencing Championship at Casa de Manila Teatrillo in Intramuros. Estampador won in straight sets.

Trevino, 61, wins $1 million

TREVINO

GAYLORD, Michigan—Lee Trevino holed a $1 million shot in the Par-3 Shootout, acing the 138-yard (126-meter) seventh hole in the two-day skins competition.

"I got my best hug in a long time," said Paul Azinger on Monday, one of four players in the event at the Treetops course. "It was a pretty special moment."

The 61-year-old Trevino had just let a $40,000 skin slip away on the sixth hole when he stepped up to the seventh tee.

The hole, nicknamed "High Five," includes a 90-foot (27-meter) vertical drop that makes club selection a bit tricky. Trevino decided on a pitching wedge, but thought he'd hit it too hard. The ball sailed directly at the flag, landed pin high about a foot (30 centimeters) onto the fringe and spun back, rolling 20 feet (6 meters) into the cup.

Spectators roared, hugged and high-fived one another as Trevino celebrated with Azinger, Phil Mickelson and Raymond Floyd.

"The greens are so soft I knew I had to go to the back or it would roll right off the green," Trevino said. "I thought I hit it a little long, but it trickled back."

The shot, Trevino's fifth hole-in-one in competition, was worth $500,000 to Trevino and $500,000 to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. *AP*

MJCI ushers in 'Pentafecta' today

MANILA Jockey Club Inc., the country's premier race club, ushers in the merry month of August with another superb line-up of races starting tonight.

The Pentafecta and the Superfecta will also kick off the club's 5-day race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The Pentafecta and the Superfecta, derivatives of the popular exotic betting formats—the Trifecta and the Quartet—make a splashing debut in tonight's 9-race card at the Manila Jockey Club, following the Games and Amusements Board's approval of the betting rules for the events.

"We are thrilled to finally include the Pentafecta and Superfecta to our events at the MJCI and we are optimistic they would further heighten the level of interest and excitement among horse racing aficionados in the country," said MJCI president, lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

The Pentafecta involves the selection of the top five finishers (in the correct order) in a designated race, while the Superfecta (also known as the Super Six) requires the selection of the top six finishers (in the correct order) in a given race. The minimum investment for each event is only P2.00 for a single bet.

In addition to the much-awaited launching of the Pentafecta and the Superfecta, MJCI will also be hosting two major stakes events on Sunday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Heading the list of top money events is the Philracom "Nevada Star Stakes Race," a P400,000-added stakes exclusive for locally-bred two-year-old colts.

Four promising juveniles are set to match strides in the 900-meter sprint contest which serves as the inaugural leg of the 2001 Philracom Juvenile Colts Championship Series. Among the protagonists for the featured race are Perfect Storm, Nuts Again, Bidang Bida and Always Florence.

Peña tops Harmony Peace chessfest

BUSINESSMAN Douglas Peña stamped his class anew, winning all his five games in the Harmony section of the 10th leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2001 held recently at Land Bank's multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

Rolando Gangozo, meanwhile, beat Valiente Aquino in the tiebreak to rule the Serenity section.

It was the second triumph for the soft-spoken Peña, in the yearlong event sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belogsa Media Systems, Land Bank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Topmost Engineering, Travel Café and the National Sports Grill.

Peña bested defending champion Jose Ventura Aspiras, current grand prix leader Dennis San Juan, former champion Jenny Mayor, youthful Rommel Asoque and engineer Octavio Canta.

Jose Aspiras finished alone in second place with four points. Jenny Mayor and Tyrone Guya were tied at third with 3.5 points each.

Dennis San Juan, Leodegario Ricaña and lawyer Quirino Sagario were bunched at fifth place with identical three points.

Elsewhere in the Serenity section, Catalino Santos and Ramil Acosta finished tied in third place with 3 points. Randy Cueto and Raul Villate sailed in fifth with 2.5 points each.

The top eight grand prix finishers in each section after the 11th leg on Aug. 25 will qualify for the stepladder championship matches in September.

Filipino GMs to Brunei

GRANDMASTERS Rogelio Antonio and Bong Villamayor and IM Nelson Mariano left for Brunei Darussalam last Sunday to participate in the 1st Asean International Chess Championship. The event is slated from July 30 to Aug. 5.

Antonio, Villamayor and Mariano, who were supported by NCFP Honorary Chair Mat Defensor, Philippine Air Force Commanding General Benjie Defensor, the City Government of Muntinlupa, and Philippine Army/Special Services Unit, are in the 11-round tournament upon the invitation of Leong Voon Choon, secretary general of the Brunei Chess Federation.

Other Filipinos entered are Air Force regulars NM Emmanuel Senador, NM Ronald Llavanes and Louie Polistico.

Vicvic opposes casino

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

NOTED sportsfisherman Vicvic Villavicencio should be applauded for resisting plans of creditor-banks to operate a casino in the Subic Bay Yacht Club which he heads as its commodore. Although the yacht club has fallen on hard times, methinks it does not need a casino to bail itself out of trouble because our strife-torn country is already awash in gambling.

Besides, Vicvic said, all the banks that financed the construction of the yacht club had been paid and there was no need to put up a casino to boost revenues. "SBYC has no bank loans based on the latest audit performed by accounting firm SGV and Co."

Vicvic deserves a pat on the back for opposing the misguided proposal to open a casino or any form of gambling at the SBYC which he founded as a wholesome family club that offers clean fun and comfort to all its members, including their children. I salute him for his strong stand against this propensity to promote gambling in our country. As I said before, gambling is senseless because it destroys and wrecks the lives of people; it is not the way to earn money; it should not be the Filipinos' way of life.

On the evils of gambling, I recall an editorial from this newspaper which said and I quote: "For every gambler that will hit the jackpot, hundreds of thousands will lose money that may have been intended for the next day's meals, or for the transport fare to the office or factory or for the children's school supplies." Gambling never made a nation prosperous and progressive, the editorial stressed.

* * *

SPORTS IN THE FAMILY. Here are the other Filipino families involved in sports: In swimming, the Lozadas are considered the most successful. The father, Catalino, was a swimming coach who developed his children Bert, Tuding and Pete to become national champions.

In basketball, said former POC president Julian Malonzo, the fabled Fajardo brothers, Fely and Gabby, were developed by their cousin, 1936 Berlin Olympic star Jacinto "Jack" Ciria Cruz, who was considered as the Filipino basketball player of the first half of the 20th century. On the other hand, the great Carlos "Caloy" Loyzaga, the basketball player of the second half of the 20th century, has two sons, Chito and Joey, who inherited his talents by playing well in both the varsity and professional leagues.

Also in basketball, Primitivo "Tibing" Martinez, voted by sportswriters as the best player of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, shared the spotlight with an elder brother, Celestino, who played with him in the Ateneo basketball and soccer teams and later at UST. Also making waves during their prime were the Genato brothers, Dr. Jose Genato Jr., a UST basketball and soccer standout; Dr. Vicente Genato, San Beda College varsity cager; an cat-quick Tony Genato, former San Beda YCO and member of the fantabulous Philippine team that placed a magnificent third in the 1954 World Basketball Championship in Brazil.

Patterson signs offer sheet

SEATTLE—Ruben Patterson, the No. 3 scorer for the Seattle SuperSonics, signed an offer sheet with the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday. Patterson has pleaded guilty to a sexual offense and recently served a 15-day sentence on home detention. If he would have stayed with the Sonics, he would have had to register as a sex offender in Washington state. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Rangers dominate Orioles

BALTIMORE — Forced to make a detour en route to Yankee Stadium, the Texas Rangers made their stopover in Baltimore worthwhile. Alex Rodriguez singled in two runs in the 11th inning as the Rangers beat Baltimore 6-4 Monday, their seventh straight win against the Orioles. The game was a makeup of the July 19 postponement caused by a train derailment near Camden Yards. *AP*

PUREFOODS, ALASKA UP

SMB, Red Bull aim to bounce back

DENNIS SABANGAN

NICK Belasco of San Miguel Beer lands on the back of Alaska's Don Allado (8) after going for a slam during their game Sunday. Looking on at right is SMB slotman Danny Ildefonso. Alaska won, 75-66.

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS, getting a new lease on life in the league, guns for a 2-0 edge against Red Bull tonight in the semifinals of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Given a one-year extension by the PBA Board of Governors the other night, the Hotdogs enter the floor opposite the Thunder in the curtain-raiser with the specter of immediate disbandment off their backs.

That came a day after the Hotdogs whacked the Thunder, 91-75, during their semis opener last Sunday.

Seeking revenge, the Thunder, however, try to prevent that misdeed from happening again as they search for a formula to cut short the Hotdogs' string of luck.

Like Red Bull, San Miguel Beer also aims to bounce back from a jittery semifinals' opener against the Aces.

The Aces leaned on old-warrior Sean Chambers to turn back the Beermen, 75-66, and frustrate the expectant San Miguel gallery.

But Chambers' act of heroism was only a by-product of the Aces' equal divison of labor.

Ali Peek, Kenneth Duremdes, Rodney Santos and Don Carlos Allado pitched in their share to demolish the Beermen's awesome frontline.

"We must quickly devise a plan to prevent Alaska from repeating a similar incident like Sunday. Otherwise, it will be difficult for us to climb back from a 0-2 deficit," said SMB coach Jong Uichico.

Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle were not in their usual elements that time, allowing the Aces to break free in the homestretch.

Welcoat no longer keen on PBA application

By Dennis U. Eroa

SAYING he's tired of waiting, a co-owner of Welcoat Paints yesterday said the Paintmasters are no longer inclined to pursue their application for PBA membership.

Terry Que told the INQUIRER that recent developments in the PBA have forced him to change his stand regarding Welcoat's bid to make the pro league.

"I feel that we've waited long enough and it's time to pursue other interest," said Que, whose partnership with Raymond Yu enabled the Paintmasters to dominate the PBL.

Among Welcoat's top guns are Ren Ren Ritualo, the country's premier amateur dribbler; slotmen Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas, guard Jojo Manalo and playmakers Eugene Tan and Celino Cruz.

Que's decision was attributed to the recent PBA board ruling which allowed Purefoods to continue playing up to 2002. With Purefoods in, the most that Welcoat can hope is to join the league in 2003.

"That's no longer acceptable. We thought all along that we're going to make it last year and then, this year. But nothing happened for reasons I don't know," Que said. Welcoat tried but failed to buy the Purefoods franchise.

Que said Welcoat will concentrate on its PBL campaign, although he admits that adding another trophy to its four-conference haul will now be doubly difficult due to the expected exodus of Welcoat's stars to the PBA next year.

Bombers down Knights, make it 6-0

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn.—San Beda vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro

RENDELL Dela Rea came out of his shell to lift Jose Rizal University past Letran College, 85-81, yesterday in the NCAA varsity basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

His sweet-shooting ways not found in the Bombers' past games, Dela Rea showed his worth, knocking in a big triple in the last 27 seconds as the Mandaluyong-based dribblers streaked to their sixth victory in as many outings.

Though scattering only 10 points, Dela Rea's basket was more than enough to send the Knights down to a 3-3 record.

He put the exclamation point on Ernani Epondulan's superb all-around performance as the Heavy Bombers bolted out from a tough contest.

Epondulan had a game-high 36 points to follow up his 43-point output during their recent mastery of Philippine Christian University.

"We are really aiming for a sweep of the first round but this time we will try to sustain that run until the end of the tournament," said JRU coach Boy De Vera, whose wards swept the first-round of the tourney last year only to flounder in the stretch.

Fighting the Knights toe-to-toe, the Bombers exploded in the last 2.44 minutes as Epondulan sparked a 10-2 run.

San Sebastian dumped defending champion College of St. Benilde, 77-71, in the nightcap.

The Stags improved to 4-2, while the Blazers plummeted to their fourth straight defeat for a 2-4 tally.

Scores:

JOSE RIZAL 85—Epondulan 36, Dela Rea 10, Gregorio 6, Santos 6, Te 6, Capus 6, Finuliar 6, Fajardo 5, Villarin 3, Valena 1, Lazaro 0, Tiu 0.

LETRAN 81—Junio 26, Sta. Cruz 19, Enrile 17, Misolas 10, Syhongpan 4, Moreno 3, Ayo 2, Sillona 0.

Quarters: 19-22, 49-42, 62-62, 85-81.

Blades face Lakers; Cebu meets Davao

GAMES TODAY:
3 p.m.—Cebu Lhuillier vs Davao
(RMC gym, Davao)
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs LBC Batangas
(La Salle Lipa gym)

Team standing—Andoks San Juan 10-3, LBC Batangas 9-3, Negros 9-4, Cebuana Lhuillier 9-4, FedEx Laguna 6-6, Nueva Ecija 3-9, Davao 2-10, Socsargen 2-11.

LBC Batangas tries to keep pace with recent tormentor Andoks San Juan when it battles FedEx Laguna today in the first phase of the 2001 MBA season at the La Salle gym in Lipa City.

The Blades (9-3), still smarting from a 63-89 lashing to the Knights last Sunday, try to recover their bearings against the unpredictable Lakers, currently at fifth with a 6-6 slate, in their 5:30 p.m. encounter.

Alex Compton, last week's Hardcourt Hero awardee, is expected to lead LBC Batangas anew although he has to get some contribution from his teammates, particularly from Rommel Adducul, Eddie Laure, Tony Boy Espinosa, Stephen Antonio, Peter Martin and Jeff Sanders.

The Blades were routed by the Knights right at their hometurf in their last meeting.

This time, LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela and his charges vow to get back on the winning track against the FedEx Laguna squad built around on its one-two punch—Jeff Flowers and Chris Clay.

Meanwhile, Cebuana Lhuillier shoots for its 10th win against lowly Davao in the curtain-raiser at 3 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial College gym in Davao City.

Riding the crest of a 98-84 triumph over the Nueva Ecija Patriots, the Mat Mitchell-less Gems are currently tied at third with the Negros Slashers at 9-4 behind the Blades and the Knight.

Puyat abiding by IOC, Fiba decision

THE GONZALO "Lito" Puyat-led Basketball Association of the Philippines sought for the immediate intervention of the International Olympic Committee and International Basketball Federation (Fiba) in an effort to save the country from disgrace in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

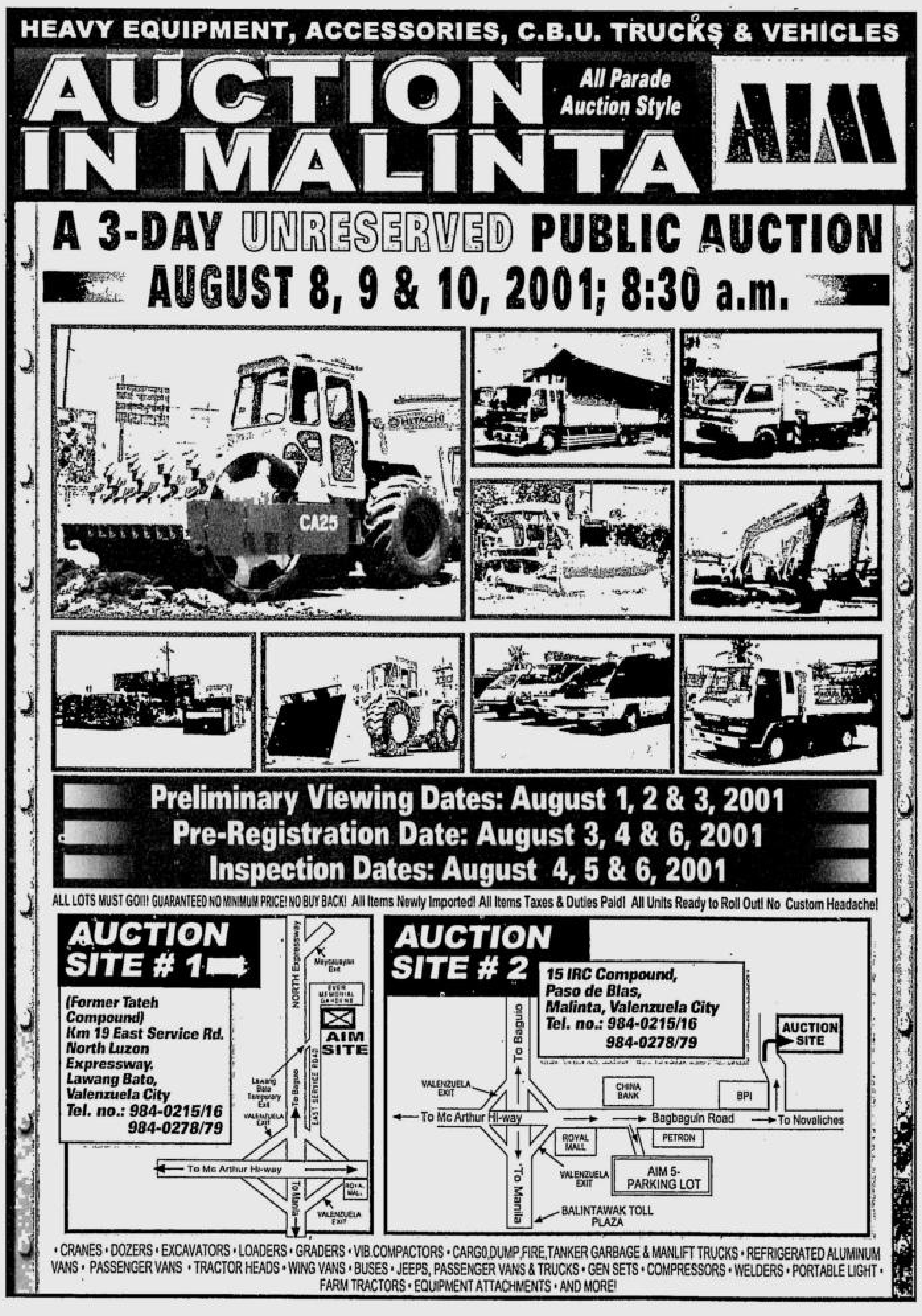
Puyat yesterday said he sent a communication to the IOC and the Fiba, requesting for their emissaries to come over and render its decision on the eight-month-old BAP leadership crisis.

"It's fast becoming a nuisance. The arbitration of the IOC and the Fiba is the only solution to end this crisis," Puyat told the INQUIRER.

Without fear of being unseated he added: "I'm willing to accept whatever decision the IOC and Fiba arbitration will render."

With his pronouncement, Puyat said the problem now lies on Quinteliano Literal's side of the court.

Literal reportedly refused to submit to the IOC-Fiba directive which instructs warring parties in the BAP to come up with an agreement to pave the way for the fielding of a basketball team in the Kuala Lumpur meet in September. *June Navarro*



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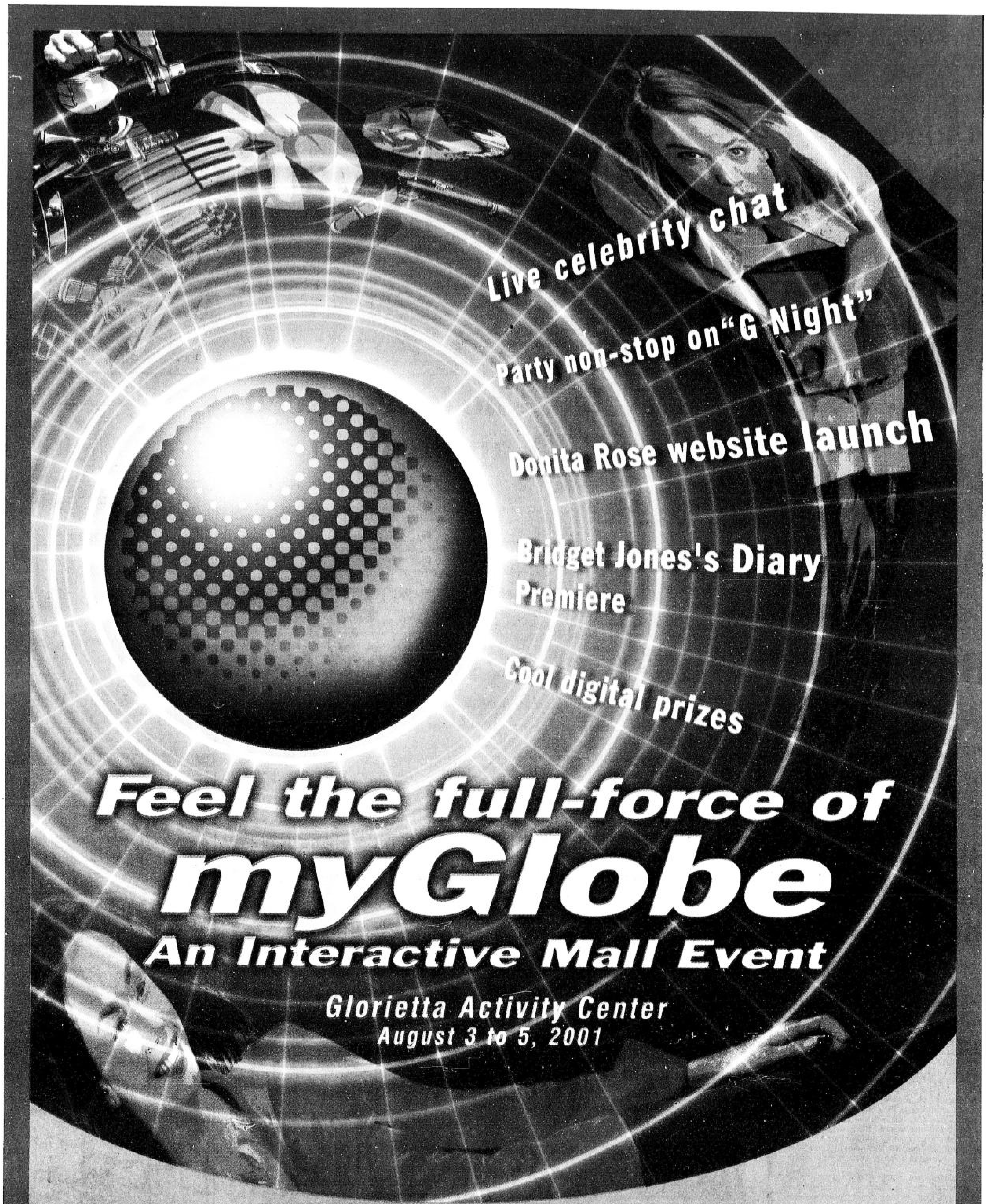
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AUGUST 4

10am to 1pm	**myGlobe Interactivity Booths open:** Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win cellphones and other prizes.
1pm to 6pm	**PinoyCentral Celebrity Chat:** Chat with your favorite celebrities like Mai Mai Cojuangco, Angel Aquino, Kay Abad, JM Rodriguez, Geneva Cruz and more!
6:30pm	**myGlobe No Limits Concert:** Featuring Silk and Passage.
7:30pm	**"Bridget Jones's Diary" Premiere:** Glorietta 4, Cinema 6 (Invitation required)
9:00pm	**myGlobe "G NIGHT":** Glorietta 4, Lobby, a one-night-only party at the place formerly known as Stars. Official bar host: WherElse?

AUGUST 5

10am to 6pm	**myGlobe Interactivity Booths open:** Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win special prizes courtesy of McDonald's, Selecta Cornetto, and Ayala Mall merchants.
4pm to 6pm	**Launch of Donita Rose Website:** Chat with your favorite MTV VJ online or through Globe Mobile Chat, and be one of the first to surf to her official website.

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- 8 WPD station commanders relieved A24
- Urban poor back Maynilad petition for price increase A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Priest dies in 20-minute Sta. Mesa fire

BY JEROME ANING

A 46-YEAR-OLD Roman Catholic parish priest suffocated in his room during a 20-minute fire that struck his residence in Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila yesterday before dawn.

But fire authorities have yet to rule out foul play in the death of Fr. Raul Villamin, curate of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish on Magistrado Street, Bacood, who was trapped in his bedroom when the fire hit the parish house adjoining the church at 3:40 a.m.

Firefighters found Villamin's remains in a corner of his room. The body bore a suspicious-looking bruise on the back.

Barangay authorities in the area have accused Villamin's driver, Patrick Payutan, of hitting the priest with a metal club and stealing his valuables before setting the house on fire.

Barangay watchmen yesterday allegedly caught the driver as he attempted to flee the scene. Payutan reportedly had in his possession a plastic bag which contained some of the priest's belongings.

Barangay watchmen also found in the room of the driver a zippo lighter which they said the suspect used to set fire to the house.

The watchmen also found in the driver's room the metal club which the suspect allegedly used on the priest.

Parishioners, who described Villamin as "kind and helpful," flocked to the scene and openly wept as the priest's body was taken out of the gutted house, radio station dzRH reported.

SFO4 Danilo Talusan of the Manila fire department said the fire originated from the room's air conditioner which malfunctioned, possibly due to short circuit.

Thick smoke and flames had already enveloped the priest's room when the firemen arrived.

Firemen said poisonous cooling gases of the busted airconditioner could also have contributed to the victim's suffocation.

The fire reached second alarm before it was put out about 4 a.m.

'RED DIARIES' star Assunta de Rossi.

PNP wants sexy movie stopped

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND LEAH SALTERIO

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday asked Malacañang to recall the sexy film "Red Diaries" from movie theaters, saying it tarnished the image of policemen.

Mendoza said policemen were given a negative portrayal in the movie, which stars 18-year-old Assunta de Rossi.

"The PNP protests in the strongest possible terms another unwarranted cinematic exploitation

PNP WANTS/ A24

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Hayashi's planner mentioned visits by suspect Ilagan

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE yesterday practically closed the Tadao Hayashi case after they were convinced that it was masseur Alex Ilagan who killed the Japanese harpist.

All evidence points to masseur Alex Ilagan, 31, as the one who beat Hayashi to death on July 22, said Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence Division chief.

Contrary to Ilagan's claim that he had stopped visiting the Japanese two years ago, police uncovered proof that the suspect had gone to Hayashi's Caloocan bungalow this year, Borromeo said.

He said Ilagan personally wrote in the harpist's planner the phone number where Hayashi, 62, could contact him, Borromeo said.

The number, police said, belonged to another gay lover of the suspect.

Ilagan's claim that he last saw the victim over two years ago could not have been true since the planner was for 2001, Borromeo said.

The suspect told police he had not been to Hayashi's house in LD Village, Caloocan since his wife left him more than two years ago.

Borromeo said the woman left

HAYASHI'S/ A24

Caloocan 'mutya' not kidnapping victim cops say

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE MISSING Caloocan beauty titlist was not abducted, rather she deliberately left home due to a family problem, police found out yesterday.

Police also admitted they had been hoodwinked into investigating the disappearance of Sheena Marie Gumabon, 16, the reigning Mutya ng Caloocan.

Gumabon left home July 17 and voluntarily went to her alleged abductor, Leah Reyes, 28, said Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence Division chief.

Investigation showed Gumabon left home because she was upset with her alleged stepmother Herminia.

"This is just a simple family problem," Borromeo said.

He added police stopped the investigation and would not file charges against Reyes, who had earlier been accused of abducting

CALOOCAN/ A26

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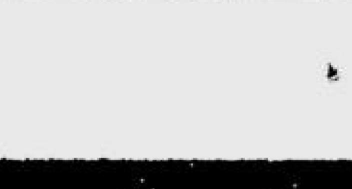

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8 WPD station commanders relieved

BY JEROME ANING

EIGHT of the 11 station commanders of the Western Police District were relieved from their posts yesterday, according to WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Supt. Arnulfo Espiritu, chief of the WPD's directorial staff, issued General Orders 27 and 28, relieving the commanders of WPD stations in Ermita, Malate, Sampaloc, Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana, Pandacan, and Balut and Abad Santos in Tondo.

The revamp also affected the heads of the WPD's personnel and human resources development division, logistics division, special project unit, district headquarters support unit and Task Force Manhunt.

Atienza warned that a station commander would be automatically relieved if a bank robbery took place in his area of jurisdiction.

The other day a Bank of Philippine Islands branch in Sta. Mesa lost P400,000 to eight armed men.

"I don't care if all the senior officers are relieved and all who will be left are the junior officers," the mayor said. "Perhaps, that would give the younger ones a crack at leadership. Who knows, they might perform better and deliver the desired results."

However, six station chiefs were merely rotated to other posts. Supt. Amador Pabustan of the Malate station and Supt. Luis Saligumba of the Sampaloc station simply exchanged positions.

Sta. Mesa police commander Supt. Napoleon Pascua will be the personnel chief while Supt. Ernesto Ibay of Ermita will become SPU head.

Superintendents Rafael Corpuz of Sta. Ana and Danilo Pelisco of Balut were designated logistics and DHSU chiefs, respectively.

One-time WPD station commanders were also returned to the district: Superintendents Elmer Jamias and Gil de Castro will take over the Ermita and Abad Santos stations, respectively.

Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue has been assigned to the Pandacan police, Supt. Fernando Robles to Balut, Supt. Ramọn de Jesus to Sta. Ana, Supt. Frumento Villareal to Sta. Mesa and Supt. Franklyn Gacutan to TF Manhunt.

Only Superintendents Juanito de Guzman of the Meisic police station, Danilo Abarsoza of Sta. Cruz and Bernardo Dias of Moriones, Tondo, will retain their posts.

The mayor said the best deterrent to crime is still a "pro-active" stance on the part of law enforcers.

He called on Pasinos to "always maintain high police visibility," and deploy additional bike patrols.

Atienza also announced City Hall's plan to purchase 20 more patrol cars to augment the WPD's existing fleet of 80 cars and 50 scooters.

Hayashi's planner . . .

(From page A23)

Ilagan because he "wanted to be with Hayashi" more than he wanted to be with her.

Last Friday, police filed criminal charges against Ilagan before the city prosecutor's office.

Authorities are banking on the testimony of witness Reynaldo Ortillano, who claimed he saw Ilagan at Hayashi's house on the night of the killing.

But Ilagan does not match the suspect's description that Ortillano earlier provided the police.

Borromeo said the suspect has a history of beating up his gay lovers whenever they allegedly failed to satisfy his whims.

After the filing of charges against Ilagan, police cleared Hayashi's aide, Antonio Clet, 47, of involvement in the crime.

Borromeo said there was no evidence that could link Clet, Hayashi's aide for 13 years, to the killing.

There were speculations that Clet could have ordered someone to kill Hayashi so he could gain full control of the harpist's properties.

Malcolm Tunacao should end the masquerade

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(MESSAGES: One texter says the Philippine Olympic Committee would agree to waive the P3.5 million broadcast fee for the Southeast Asian Games. If that's true, no gesture could be grander. It would benefit the National Broadcasting Network, the participating athletes, the sports fans and the Filipino nation as a whole...Manny Pacquiao, quick on the draw, leaves for California on Monday with manager Marty Elorde. There's no date yet for his world title defense, and his challenger remains unnamed, but the IBF super bantamweight champion has decided to restart training under Fred Roach, who guided Pacquiao to a sensational crown triumph in Las Vegas last June...From an artist's address in Kamuning, this text message: "Hsbnd came home frm a cnfession sudenly liftd his wyf & caried her. WYF: y, did d priest tel u 2 b so romantic lyk dis? HUSB: no, he told me 2 carry my cros.")

***

THE MAIN event was not even fit for an appetizer. It lacked the promised crispness so proudly trumpeted in pre-fight press releases.

Worse, the main fight, cut short and declared a draw in the fourth round, kept fans wondering what might have been.

The main course tasted flat, empty.

Of course, there was a message loud and clear: Malcolm Tunacao cannot hope to go for another world boxing crown while cruelly cramped inside a frail fishbone frame. He should stop masquerading as a flyweight. Right now.

It went like this: There was a cracking clash of heads midway in the fourth round.

Tunacao, taller, suffered a deep cut on the forehead. The referee summoned the ring doctor. There was a long hesitation, before the bout was called off and declared a technical draw.

Pardon my saying this but, if anybody gained from the doctor's decision, it was clearly Malcolm Tunacao, who had previously suffered a first-round stoppage in dropping his WBC flyweight crown in Thailand.

Why? Because Tunacao on Saturday had appeared in bad need of immediate relief inside the ring.

***

OK. The guy was supposed to be in peak form. In fact, there were claims he made the weight a pound off the 112-pound limit.

Tunacao, his face skeletal, his frame frail as a kite's, had a flashy start. But starting the second round, when Randy Mangubat started to dig in and go for the guts, Tunacao visibly wilted. He would crouch and retreat whenever he got thumped around the waist.

He was also fading very fast.

That head butt couldn't have come at a better time for Tunacao.

After the hollow bout came this claim that the run-run style was part of Tunacao's strategy. He allegedly wanted to lure in the opponent so Mangubat could lose steam.

Tunacao said he planned to move in for the kill in the later rounds.

That did not sound believable. The overall picture, not to mention the respective heft and condition of the two combatants, pointed to only one thing: If anybody was ready to get knocked out in that main bout for the WBC international flyweight crown, it was Tunacao, not Mangubat.

***

Not only that. The judges reportedly confided later that Tunacao, with his very tentative style, would've surely lost on points had the fight gone the distance.

It's a pity because Tunacao, after he clinched the WBC crown last year, was unable to live up to expectations.

His first defense in Tokyo against Celes Kobayashi was a flop. He started out sharp and strong, but again wilted when the Japanese challenger started connecting to the body.

Tunacao was lucky enough to have eked out a draw in that bout.

Yes, he did retain his crown with that below-par stand. But it was clear he failed to confirm his reign.

Then in Pichit, Thailand last March, Tunacao struggled hard to make the weight. He finally passed the test but only after a few frustrating tries.

He did make the weight. But the fight itself was an entirely different test.

Starting out dazed, Tunacao was promptly smothered by Pongsaklek Wonsongkam. He was knocked down three times in the first round and lost his world crown.

Tunacao, as though run over by a rushing locomotive, cried and cursed.

***

That setback would go down as the most shocking, shameful dethronement by a Filipino world champ in a foreign ring.

And right there and then, the prescription was for Tunacao to move at least one division up.

It was a complete surprise therefore that he again offered to fight as a flyweight.

Out there at Casino Filipino on Saturday, poor Malcolm Tunacao tried everything. He danced, he did some fancy moves.

He did look cute floating like a legitimate flyweight at the start.

But after action picked up, Tunacao was made to realize it was a boxing championship, not a masquerade ball, he came to.

He was predictably stripped of his disguise.

PNP wants sexy movie stopped

(From page A23)

of the police institution, and the men and women representing it," said Mendoza.

"Unless something is done by the producers of this particular film to correct the situation, the PNP shall exhaust all legal means to prevent its showing and be spared from the stereotype that the movie may cause to the police organization."

Produced by Regal Films and directed by award-winning director Maryo J. de los Reyes, the sex-drama started its theater run yesterday and has grossed close to P5-million on its first day of showing, according to Regal supervising producer Joey Gosiengfiao.

"Assunta is the hottest star in the industry today, that's why the public is interested in her movie," Gosiengfiao said.

"Red Diaries" is a trilogy of three women all portrayed by De Rossi.

In one episode, she plays the battered wife of a corrupt police officer, who lets five other policemen gang-rape her after her husband discovers her illicit affair with another man.

"This dramatization does not augur well with the programs of the PNP and the law enforcement community," Mendoza said. "The PNP cannot afford to be typecast as villains before the eyes of the public, whether in real life or on the silver screen."

"The film was approved by the censors, so why will the PNP complain about how their men are portrayed in the movie," said Gosiengfiao.

The PNP's Directorate for Police Community Relations Chief Gen. Thompspn Lantion also said the PNP would ask the court to issue a temporary restraining order to stop the movie's run if Malacañang rejects their appeal.

"We are just putting things in the right perspective," Lantion said. "Although the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, we have to put things within the bounds of law. We will fire charges on moral grounds."

He cited an earlier memorandum of agreement with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board regarding the portrayal of police roles in movies.

The MTRCB had already rejected a request by the PNP to review the film. It said the board could no longer recall the movie after it has been reviewed twice, approved for showing and given an R-18 rating early this month.

"Under the law, after the film has been approved by the board, and its permit to exhibit has been issued, the board can no longer recall the same unless a violation of PD 1986 has been committed," said MTRCB chair Alejandro Roces in a letter to the PNP dated July 27. "In effect, the board loses its jurisdiction over the said film...only Malacañang can order a review of the same."

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Vendor slain by younger brother

By Jerome Aning

A MAN yesterday stabbed dead his older brother in Divisoria, Manila during a confrontation about the sale of a piece of land they inherited from their parents.

Cigarette vendor Jose Villorente, 51, of 393 Callejon 3 St., Gagalangin, Tondo, died in the hospital after his younger brother Rolando, 37, allegedly stabbed him in the chest.

SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the city police's homicide section said the brothers have not been in good terms after Villorente sold a lot in Caloocan the brothers owned without Rolando's knowledge almost a year ago.

The brothers, police said, inherited the piece of land from their deceased parents.

Rolando had not spoken to his brother since the sale of the property, police said.

Villorente was tending to his cigarette stand at the corner of CM Recto Avenue and Dagupan Street in Divisoria about 4 a.m. when Rolando arrived, police said.

The brothers revived the old disagreement and during their heated argument, Rolando pulled out a dagger and stabbed his brother in the chest, police said.

Rolando, police said, also tried to stab another vendor, identified only as Ramil, when he tried to stop the fight.

Villorente was brought to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, where he died about 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

Police are now after Rolando who would be charged with murder and attempted homicide.

'Cops' rob cell phone dealers

By Philip C. Tubeza

ROBBERS who pretended to be policemen on Monday took more than P500,000 worth of cash and cell phones from two cell phone dealers and their friend in Quezon City.

Cell phone dealers Libriada Atenicio-Santos, 39, Cesario Atenicio, 27, and saleslady Melanie G. Legazpi, 21, all of 12 RSD Rosario, Pasig, lost a total of P567,200 after three unidentified men blocked the taxi they were in, said investigator PO1 Renato Hamor, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Hamor said the suspects took from the victims several Nokia cell phones, including 8850s and 6210s, worth P305,000; P260,000 in cash, a bag of groceries worth P700, and a pair of P1,500 denim pants.

The victims were on board Creed Taxi, a Toyota Corolla with Plate No. PWU-728 driven by Alexander Pecudo, when the robbery took place about 9 p.m. on Monday.

They said they flagged down the taxi along Ortigas Avenue and were on their way to Rosario, Pasig.

But while they were cruising along Bagumbayan Avenue in Libis, Quezon City, a "dark colored car" (UMH-735) bumped into their taxi, the victims told police.

They said that when they stopped to check the damage on the taxi, three men armed with handguns alighted from the car, approached the taxi and introduced themselves as policemen. The victims said the suspects claimed they were after contraband cell phones from Finland and ordered driver Pecudo to open the taxi's luggage compartment.

The suspects then took the cell phones, groceries and denim pants and transferred them into their car, the victims said.

They said they could not do anything when the suspects sped away.

Hamor said police are now trying to get suspects description from the victims.

Man killed in drug deal gone wrong

FOR allegedly screwing up a drug deal, a man was shot dead yesterday by a still unidentified man in Pasig City.

Insp. Antonio Padilla, chief of the Pasig Police criminal investigation division, identified the victim as Johnny Ulijan, 35, of J. Concepcion Street, Barangay Santolan, Pasig City.

Ulijan died right after being shot at close range in the face and neck.

Investigator PO1 Rolando Panis said the shooting happened about midnight in Ulijan's house.

Ulijan was roused from his sleep when he heard knocks on his door. When he opened the door, the unidentified man fired at him thrice.

The gunman ran away, the investigator said.

It was not yet known what gun the suspect used.

A police informant said Ulijan was a known drug dealer in his area and a disgruntled partner might have shot him.

Agnes E. Donato

'My passport is the best evidence'

DEAR Editor,

I am writing this letter to correct the falsehood ascribed to my person by your columnist, Mr. Ramon Tulfo, in his column today (July 31) and which he also mentioned in an interview last night with ANC's Ces Drilon.

I categorically deny Mr. Tulfo's allegation that Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and I were apprehended last year at the Canadian-US border while trying to bring $1 million which, he says, belonged to Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

There is no truth whatsoever to Mr. Tulfo's allegation that I and my mistah, Col. Aquino (like Mr. Tulfo, I am an adopted member of PMA Class '88) came from Nova Scotia, a province of Canada, and were apprehended at the Canadian-US border.

First of all, I have never been to Canada, and secondly, I do not have a Canadian visa that will allow me entry into that country. This can be easily verified with the Canadian embassy which I believe has a computerized record of all visa applications.

My passport is my best documentary evidence to prove that Mr. Tulfo was given a bum steer, or, in journalistic parlance, *nakuryente*, by his "reliable sources."

The only time Col. Aquino and I were together in a foreign trip was in late January 1999 when we went to the United States to attend a gun show in Atlanta. We were with the group of Senator Lacson, Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, Julius Yarcia and Jun Dumlao, who is connected with P.B. Dionisio, a firearms dealer.

From Atlanta, Senator Lacson, Mr. Dumlao and myself returned to Los Angeles, California while Generals Zubia and Yarcia and Colonel Aquino proceeded to New Jersey. From LA, I took a PAL flight direct to Manila.

It puzzles me why my name is now being dragged into this controversy. In fact, I find it really awkward explaining my side on something that never happened in the first place.

If Mr. Tulfo is really keen in knowing the truth, I suggest that he go to the United States and Canada himself to check on the veracity of the allegations of his sources.

In fact, Mr. Tulfo has done this before, when he went to the United States to personally conduct an inquiry on whether Hubert Webb was really in that country at the time the massacre of the Vizconde family took place in Parañaque.

–(Signed) Raymond Burgos

STINKING STACKS of trash, such as this growing one on C. M. Recto in Divisoria, could assault the senses of Metro Manilans again, according to Abalos.

JESS YUSON

Dumping in Tondo continues despite NHA cease-desist order

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority is still waiting for the Manila city government to comply with the cease-and-desist order that would stop the dumping of city garbage on NHA property in Vitas, Tondo.

NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan issued the CDO on June 5, but he claimed the City of Manila continues to dump garbage on NHA property. He said the stench coming from the rotting garbage has been the subject of complaints of residents and owners of industrial and commercial firms in the area.

But Manila Mayor Lito Atienza promised to put an end to the dumping of garbage in Vitas as soon as the city government has set up a composting plant on the old Smokey Mountain site.

"We understand the situation of the NHA because we are using their property," Atienza said in Filipino. "But I have written to the NHA and explained our side, they already know our problem."

The mayor said they have already fenced off a two-hectare area at the old Smokey Mountain site where they are building the composting facility.

"The sooner we are able to start transfer operations to this new facility, the better it is for all of us," Atienza said.

In an interview, Atienza stressed that he did not consider the Vitas dumpsite "a solution to the city's garbage problem."

"But so long as there is a problem (on waste disposal), we will continue to use a portion of the city as repository for the garbage," he added.

Since August 1999, at the height of the Metro Manila garbage crisis triggered by the closure of the San Mateo Landfill, Manila has been operating a garbage transfer station on Pier 18 of the North Harbor along Radial Road 10.

Pamintuan said locators at the nearby Manila Harbor Center (MHC), residents at the Vitas temporary housing site and investors at the Vitas Industrial Complex, have since been complaining about the dumping.

Because of the presence of the garbage dump, the marketing of unsold lots at the MHC has been affected. Pamintuan said that makeshift shanties are also mushrooming at the temporary dumpsite, which could end up as another squatter colony and turn it into a second Smokey Mountain.

The NHA's property on Vitas is part of a 79-hectare lot partly owned by the MHC and which the NHA is also developing. Pamintuan said they need the NHA property to complete a joint-venture scheme called the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP).

"We believe we had been of help to the City of Manila with regard to its garbage disposal problem for quite some time now," Pamintuan said. "However, we also have an obligation toward our SMDRP joint venture partner, locators at the MHC, the Vitas Industrial Estate and residents."

Ma. Suzette Gatmaitan, president of the Vitas Industrial Estate Association, said environment authorities issued a notice of violation on the transfer site in November 1999, but the dumping continued.

"We feel that the stopping of the dumping in Vitas would pave the way for the rehabilitation of the area," she said. "With the cooperation of all parties concerned, the development of the industrial estate into the envisioned economic zone will be fulfilled."

GMA exec loses P500,000 to 'salisi' men

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE TRAINING and development manager of GMA Channel 7 lost to robbers an estimated P500,000 worth of jewelry in Quezon City.

Marianeta Mendoza-Torres, 46, of 117-C Matimtiman St. in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City lost the jewelry about 10 a.m. Monday after the suspects tricked her 17-year-old housemaid to leave their house unguarded, said police.

Torres and her husband, police said, were not home when the robbery took place.

The maid told police that an unidentified man went to the Torres house after the couple had left.

She said the man told her that a newspaper vendor owed Torres some change for a newspaper she bought earlier that day.

The man then offered to accompany her to the vendor, the maid said.

She said she agreed to go with the man to collect the change. But when they got to the newspaper vendor, the peddler did not have any coins.

The maid said the man then pretended to have the vendor's money changed at a nearby store.

After about five minutes, the maid said the man had not yet returned so she decided to go back home.

When she arrived at the house, the maid said she was shocked to see that the master bedroom had been ransacked and that Torres' jewelry was missing.

The maid told police the robbery happened in a span of just 10 minutes.

FOUND VALHANDUMON

Garbage collector Felicisimo Inot yesterday found this fetus in an instant coffee bottle while he was picking up garbage under a bridge along Tomas Morato in Barangay Obrero, Quezon City.

Garbage mountains may return with a vengeance, MMDA chair warns

By Nelson Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said that he would launch a coordinated effort to promote the benefits of using composted materials as fertilizers.

This came after producers of composted garbage announced that they might be forced to stop operation for lack of buyers.

Already, truckloads of waste byproducts have accumulated because of the absence of buyers, according to the producers.

Abalos said this could pose a problem in the overall solid waste management program of the MMDA.

Aside from segregation, composting is a major component of the solid waste management program.

Earlier, the MMDA encouraged the public, particularly the home owners organizations of private subdivisions, to engage in the production and selling of composted materials, which can be used as farm fertilizers.

Abalos said the provincial government of Pampanga initially showed interest in the composted materials for the rehabilitation of lahar-stricken areas in the province, but wanted the waste material free of charge.

Abalos said he would also encourage golf course owners to use composted materials as fertilizers for their ornamental plants. Abalos is also the president of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

"We would have wasted our effort if we could not solve this problem," Abalos said.

Metro Manila suffered from uncollected garbage after the closure of the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in Rizal province and the Payatas open dumpsite in Quezon City.

The MMDA has since looked for alternative means of disposing garbage. Composting is one of them.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 1, 2001
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 34:29-35
Gospel: Mt 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. The one who finds it buries it again; and so happy is he, that he goes and sells everything he has, in order to buy that field.

Again the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who is looking for fine pearls. Once he has found a pearl of exceptional quality, he goes away, sells everything he has and buys it."

Commentary

The two wonderful parables in today's reading describe the kingdom of heaven as a treasure that is so attractive that people, who see the value of it, are willing to change the whole course of their lives in order to find and possess it. Jesus appeals to human greed to invite people to search for the kingdom. In a very original way Jesus explains here the central tenet of the law "you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The search for the kingdom is further explained by generations of people who literally gave up everything to look for this treasure.

Father in heaven, we thank you for the challenge of the kingdom. Give us the courage and determination to search for it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Moral ascendancy and influence vis-à-vis violence and intimidation—Actual force or intimidation need not even be employed for rape to be committed, as in the present case, where the over-powering influence of accused-appellant who is private complainants' father and stepfather, suffices. Undoubtedly, private complainants' tender age and accused-appellant's custodial control and domination over them rendered the former so meek and subservient to the lecherous advances of the latter. Settled is the rule that in a rape committed by a father/stepfather against his own daughter/stepdaughter, the former's moral ascendancy and influence over the latter substitutes for violence and intimidation. That ascendancy or influence necessarily flows from the father/stepfather's parental authority, which the Constitution and the laws recognize, support and enhance, as well as from the children's duty to obey and observe reverence and respect toward their parents. Such reverence and respect are deeply ingrained in the minds of Filipino children and are recognized by law. Abuse of both by a father/stepfather can subjugate his daughter/stepdaughter's will, thereby forcing her to do whatever he wants. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Ynares-Santiago, People v. Francisco, G.R. Nos. 134566-67, January 22, 2001]

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If Erap had his jeep, JV has his bike

By Agnes Donato

SAN JUAN Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito hopes to fight crime in his municipality by reviving the bike patrol and has already turned over 10 mountain bikes to the local police force.

"We shall see to it that all our streets are visited by the local police and ensure quick response in trouble-prone areas," said Ejercito, son of deposed President Estrada by former starlet Guia Gomez.

The mayor said that the purchase of the 10 bikes for the local police was in fulfillment of a promise he made to the people during his inauguration.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said he expects the local government to deliver 20 more bicycles before they can formally launch the "bike squad" on September 1.

"We still have to train our men on this," De Gracia said. "Hopefully, the bike patrol will enhance our capability to fight crime in the area. Likewise, our men on the beat can cover a larger area, maximizing their effectiveness," the police chief said.

With the bike squad, police would be able to patrol even the narrow streets and pathways and prevent petty criminals from operating or getting away with their offenses, De Gracia added.

But some policemen criticized the revival of the bike patrol scheme, claiming that maintenance of the bikes only mean additional burden on the men.

A policeman recalled that during the term of former Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, he had to shoulder the repair expenses of his issued bicycle because the local government failed to provide for it.

OFF TO HARVARD
Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez last week left for Massachusetts to take part in the program for senior managers in government at Harvard University in Cambridge from July 29 to Aug. 17. The mayor's wife Alma Moreno saw him off at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Urban poor back Maynilad petition for price increase

LEADERS of urban poor communities and their members recently trooped to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in Balara, Quezon City to press for the approval of Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s P4.25 water rate increase petition.

About 200 of them joined the rally, saying the issue is not the price increase but the availability of Maynilad's potable and affordable water.

Lilia Asis, a resident of Payatas, Quezon City, called on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to approve the rate increase petitioned by Maynilad so that the water company could continue with its projects in the area. Payatas residents normally spend P800 to P1000 monthly for water from local suppliers.

"*Matuloy na po sana and proyekto sa aming lugar,*" said Rolando Castillo, spokesman of the Republic Nawasa Line Neighborhood Association. "*Kami ay sawang-sawa na sa kahihintay sa tubig.*"

The demonstrators expressed concern over the impending closure of Maynilad if it would be unable to resolve its financial problems.

The water company has incurred P2.7 billion in foreign exchange losses when the peso dropped from P26.50 to the $1 in 2000.

Due to its inability to meet financial obligations, Maynilad has suspended its capital expenditure programmed for the year 2000.

DIOKNO!
MAKAMAYAMIN
ALIS DIYAN!

THE issue, according to these members of the urban poor, is not the price increase but the availability of potable water.

RP unequivocally opposed to sex tours, says Gordon

"THE PHILIPPINES remains unequivocally against sex tourism."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on Monday assured Japanese tours and travel operators in Nagoya and Osaka that the Philippines is a safe and wholesome destination for tourists.

During a meeting with the Japanese tourism officials, Gordon said the Philippines has better things to offer than prostitution.

He expressed concern over reports in the Japanese press and among tour operators that the Philippines is good only for sex tours and is a place where travelers could pick up sexually transmissible diseases.

"The Philippines remains a low HIV prevalence country," Gordon said, quoting the World Health Organization.

"The WHO points out that the countries of Southeast Asia, along with India, have been comparatively hard hit, with the exception of Indonesia, the Philippines and Laos."

WHO statistics show that as of Oct. 1, 2000, 152,939 AIDS cases had been reported in the Southeast Asia, more than 95 percent of which were from just three countries—Thailand, India and Burma.

"Clearly we are much better off than our neighbors, including Thailand, one of our greatest rivals in terms of tourism," Gordon said. "Incidentally, it was in Thailand where the first AIDS case in the Asean region was reported, in 1984."

Induction

THE QUEZON City High School Alumni Association Inc. Class '57 will hold its monthly meeting and induction of newly elected officers for 2001-2002 on Aug. 5, 3 p.m. at After 8 at 52 Kamuning Road, Quezon City.

The new set of officers are Ester Lacsamana, president; Alfredo V. Miniano, vice president; Alicia S. A. Rabago, secretary; Amelia S. Rasca, assistant secretary; Manuel A. Martinez, treasurer; Norman G. Reynoso, auditor; and board members Alexander Olivar, Perfecto Palmero, Lourdes D. Sayson, Alberto O. del Pilar, Cleopatra C. Ruiz, Romeo Santos, Greg Ybardoloza Jr., Fabian Pobre Jr. and Editha Victoria.

Lawyer Allan F. Pagui, president of the QCHS General Alumni Association, will be the inducting officer.

For more information, please contact Alice Rabago at 426-3540 or Lalie Garcia at 725-2937.

Caloocan 'mutya' . . .

(From page A23)

Gumabon and forcing her into prostitution.

On Monday, Gumabon phoned Caloocan officer in charge Reynaldo Malonzo to tell him she was all right and that she was not abducted by Reyes, Borromeo said.

Malonzo's 17-year-old son Michael is said to be the boyfriend of Gumabon, a Pharmacy freshman at the Manila Central University.

Herminia, however, became angry when she learned police have stopped investigating her daughter's disappearance. She also claimed Gumabon is her biological daughter, the eighth in a brood of nine.

She insisted that Reyes kidnapped her daughter and forced her to work as a guest relations officer in a pub house in Quezon City.

Police checked the pub house over the weekend but did not find Gumabon there, Borromeo said.

Herminia on Monday said that a Caloocan politician phoned her a few days ago and confirmed her suspicions.

The politician allegedly told Herminia that he gave Gumabon a ride home some time in June. During the ride, the girl supposedly tried to borrow P20,000 from him because "her friend had a problem."

Herminia said the "friend" whom her daughter referred to was Reyes, and the amount was intended for the lesbian's plane ticket abroad.

"(Reyes) wanted my daughter to finance her trip abroad," Herminia told the INQUIRER. "I know (Reyes) is planning to work there."

Herminia said her daughter was "very close" to Caloocan politicians, having campaigned for Malonzo's ticket in the last elections.

2 drug suspects nabbed

POLICE arrested two suspected drug pushers during a buy bust operation in Las Piñas City late Monday night following an intensive anti-drug campaign by the Southern Police District Office.

Glenn Cresencio, 42, and Ronald Abarca, 21, both of 280 Dalandan St. in San Isidro Subdivision, Pamplona, Las Piñas City, were arrested in their residence by members of the Las Piñas City police led by Senior Insp. Vicente Raquion.

The suspects did not resist arrest.

Ten sachets containing at least 100 grams of what appeared to be methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and P500 marked money were also found on the suspects, police said.

Investigation showed that Raquion received information that the suspects were the main distributors of illegal drugs in Pamplona.

Lyndon Mijares, a civilian radio operator of the Las Piñas City police station, said Raquion, who posed as a drug buyer, made the arrest after the shabu was handed to him. *Nelson F. Flores*

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Ex-Streetboys head over heels in love with theater

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN **MEYNARD** Marcellano, **Nichols Manalo** and **Sherwin Roux** auditioned for the all-male dance group Streetboys, all they wanted was to dance and earn a little money.

Today they are getting a rare chance to make a name for themselves as individuals in show business, just like their dancing colleagues **Danilo Barrios, Jhong Hilario** and **Vhong Navarro** who have turned to acting.

Middle of last year, the three young men joined last-minute auditions for the Manila run of the British musical "Miss Saigon." The musical's assistant choreographer, Para Isidro, who happens to be their friend, urged them to go to the audition.

"We didn't even know anything about 'Miss Saigon,' not a song, not a scene," Meynard shares. "We were supposed to rehearse for a dance number on 'Asap' and we were allowed by *Direk* **Chito (Roño)** to audition for only 30 minutes so we wouldn't be late for 'Asap' at ABS-CBN."

Roño is the manager of Streetboys.

During the "Miss Saigon" auditions, Meynard, Sherwin and Nikko simply did what they do best—their jaw-dropping acrobatic dance acts. They impressed the "Miss Saigon" honchos who decided to include their acrobatic routine in the powerful soldiers' march, "Morning of the Dragon."

The three guys were in the six-month run of "Miss Saigon" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

"We never even dreamed of performing with **Lea Salonga** on stage one day, but it happened," Meynard says.

"At first, we were very excited just to see Lea, but to share the stage with her was truly an honor," Nikko says. "Working with international theater actors was also a great experience."

When the Manila run was about to end, they received a letter asking if they were interested to join the Asian tour of the musical.

"We knew it would be staged in Hong Kong and Singapore after Manila," Sherwin says. "But we didn't know that we would be offered the chance to join the Asian production.

"We were thinking of going back to Streetboys, but we didn't want to pass up the 'Miss Saigon' chance. We said yes right away."

After Manila, they went to Sydney for a two-week rehearsal for the Hong Kong production of "Miss Saigon." They worked in Hong Kong from May 18 to July 14.

At the Hong Kong Cultural Center where "Miss Saigon" was staged, Meynard, Sherwin and Nikko were also given other roles.

"We doubled as GIs, hustlers in Bangkok and part of the ensemble," Nikko says.

The trio spent a brief break in Manila before the start of the Singapore production.

"The other cast members went to the States or Europe, but we preferred to come back here, even only for a short time," Meynard says.

On July 27, they left for Singapore, where "Miss Saigon" starts its run today at the Kallang Theater. They will be there until Oct. 15.

In Hong Kong, the boys visited popular tourist spots like Ocean Park, Victoria Peak, Lang Kwai Fong and Lantau Island. They also shopped at the night markets in Mong Kok and Temple Street, at the bargain stores on Granville Road and the designer boutiques at Pacific Place and Ocean Terminal.

One weekend, they took the train to China.

"When the show starts and you hear the music, you get energized," Sherwin says. "Once there was a typhoon in Hong Kong and it was Signal No. 8. The audience was advised to leave and get ticket refunds, but they did not leave their seats. We didn't want to perform, but when we saw the audience waiting, we had no choice but to do the show."

Nikko once sprained his ankle and had to miss one performance. "That night, I sat in the audience and watched the show," he recalls. "It was a different feeling. I nearly cried."

Sherwin, who replaced Spencer Reyes in Streetboys, admits their stint in "Miss Saigon" has been financially rewarding. His earnings partly financed their family house today at Pacita Subdivision in San Pedro, Laguna.

"My dad and I bought it for the family," Sherwin beams. "It really feels good that at my age, I can help my family with my show biz earnings."

Sherwin has invested his money in an RTW business, 69 Urban Clothes, at Pacita Complex.

Nikko feels they are blessed to be in the cast of a world-class musical.

"The camaraderie among the cast members is just wonderful," he says. "You learn from your co-actors everyday."

Roño expects the three boys to reach greater heights in theater.

"The tour might open doors for them to do other things or to be in the cast of other musicals," he says. "If these chances come, I want them to continue."

Roño says he has trained new members of Streetboys to fill in the void left by those who have embarked on solo careers. The group recently introduced the new members on "Eat Bulaga"—**Erwin Laxamana, Jonathan Edmund, Fritz, Aries** and **Yexel Sebastian**.

"I hope the new ones will rise to the level attained by the original members," Roño says.

Fans of Streetboys can visit the yahoo website of the group.

After Singapore, "Miss Saigon" will be staged in Manchester and Dublin.

"If we're given a chance to join those productions, we will conquer Europe next," Meynard says with pride.

NO MEAN FEAT. From members of a dance group that promotes dance music, Meynard, Sherwin and Nichols are now members of the cast of "Miss Saigon" in its Asian tour.

Dinosaurs without Spielberg

(From page 29)

Who can forget the quivering plastic cup of water from the first "Jurassic Park," which presaged the arrival of the horrifying T-rex?

What about the slowly cracking pane of glass from "The Lost World," which was all that was preventing Julianne Moore from falling hundreds of feet down a jagged cliff into the ocean?

Throughout "JP3," Johnston stages dinosaur stampedes and sudden ambushes with engaging intensity, yet none of these sequences have images that inhabit your subconscious afterwards the way Spielberg's scenes do. In cinema terms, I guess this defines the difference between a master and a genius.

It would, however, be unfair to keep comparing Johnston to Spielberg or "JP3" to the first two movies, because "JP3" succeeds on its own terms. It doesn't lecture about the dangers of man messing with Mother Nature, or try to educate us about the latest scientific findings about dinosaurs. The producers of "JP3" have simply gone back to the basics and given us more of what we want—new thrills, new victims and new dinosaurs.

Three-quel

This three-quel finds dinosaur expert Alan Grant (Sam Neill, reprising his role in the original "Jurassic Park") being tricked into visiting Isla Sorna by Paul and Amanda Kirby (William H. Macy and Tea Leoni), a deceitful married couple.

Isla Sorna, if you'll recall, was the island where most of the events in the second movie took place. After a harrowing encounter with a flying dinosaur forces their plane to crash on the island, the Kirbys tell Grant the real reason they have brought him back to the proverbial lion's den.

"JP3's" fresh ingredients include a new dinosaur, the Spinosaurus, which is even larger and more agile than the T-rex which stomped through the earlier movies.

If you want to see these two behemoths slug it out, you won't be disappointed, because one of the most jaw-dropping scenes of "Jp3" features the two beasts in a wrestling match to the death!

And just when you thought you'd gotten tired of them, the velociraptors have been redesigned to look more tiger-like. There's even one raptor that has the reptilian equivalent of a punk hairdo!

The most thrilling non-human addition to "JP3," however, is the flying pteranadon, which was shown briefly at the end of "The Lost World." The pteranadon's airborne sequences are what elevate "JP3" to dazzling new heights of adventure.

My favorite scenes from "JP3" show the pteranadons grabbing the helpless humans and carting them off to their nests.

Among the new human characters is Eric Kirby (Trevor Morgan), a quintessential Spiel-bergian child. Much like Tim from the first "JP," Eric is also a bookish but resourceful kid who can outsmart dinosaurs because he's read the best and most current books on the subject.

Surprise

Not as alluring is Tea Leoni as the most irritating and poorly conceived character in the "JP" trilogy. She's nothing more than a standard screaming female, with none of the intelligence and bravery displayed by Laura Dern and Julianne Moore in the previous movies.

In addition to Sam Neill, there's another actor from the first movie who makes a crucial reappearance in "JP3." I won't let on who he/she is because I don't want to ruin a wonderful surprise.

Such unexpected treats, whether they be moments of terror or comedy, make this newest "Jurassic Park" a variegated, full-course meal (pun intended). There's even one part where the terror and the comedy are perversely inseparable. Clue? That cell phone with the very distinct ring tone isn't coming from an inconsiderate viewer in the theater with you, but from a hungry carnivore.

"Jurassic Park 3" isn't perfect. Some of the family drama is a little too gooey for my taste, but the thrills, visual effects and surprises more than compensate for the occasional jarring shifts in the movie's tone.

After "The Lost World," I thought this franchise was finished. Thanks to "JP3," I know there'll be a "JP4," and I'm already looking forward to it.

Kris, Boy in Red Crab opening

THE RED Crab Seafood and Steak Restaurant opens its newest branch along Tomas Morato in Quezon City today with TV talk show hosts Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda as special guests.

The Red Crab Seafood and Steak Restaurant now has three branches—in Clark Field in Pampanga, in Malate and now on Morato.

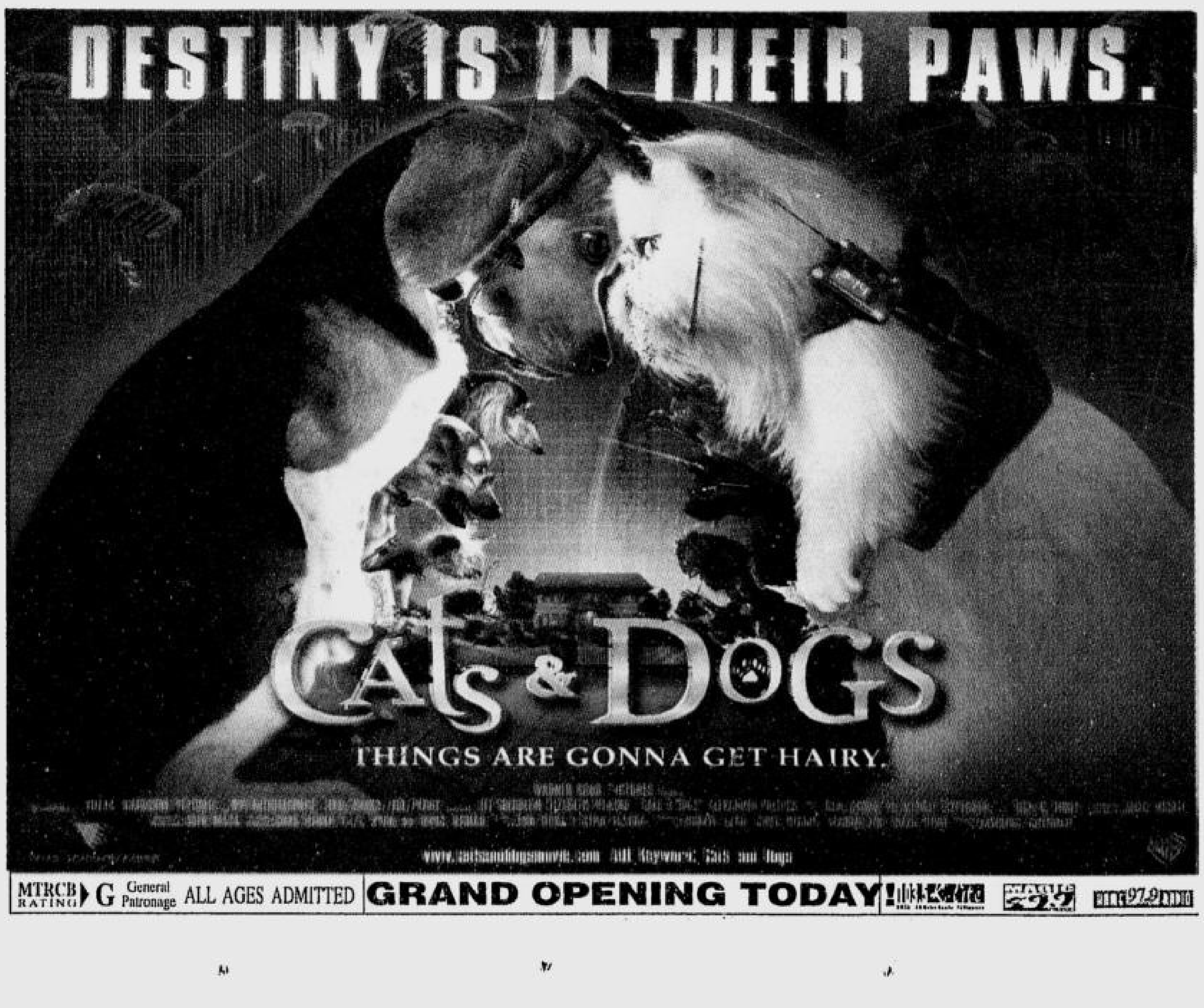
The Red Crab is the baby of the mother-daughter team of *Lola* Madang and Chiqui Eusebio, who modeled the place after the famous Red Lobster in the United States.

The restaurant introduced the now very popular 12 ways of cooking crabs, which include the Szechuan Crab, Crab Adobo, Crab Lilian, Singaporean Chili, and Crab Maritess.

Other dishes worth coming back for are the Sinigang na Ulang, Kalderetang Kambing, and other authentic Pampango dishes. The Red Crab also offers high-grade imported steak, pasta, shrimps, lobster and a variety of salads.

The Red Crab is owned and managed by Chiqui Eusebio and her children Maricel, Raymund, Nikki and Chang. *Lola* Madang is also very much active in the business as she personally oversees the making of Red Crab's divine desserts, which include her famous sans rival and leche flan.

After the launch of its Morato branch, The Red Crab will open its Alabang branch at the Alabang Town Center in October.



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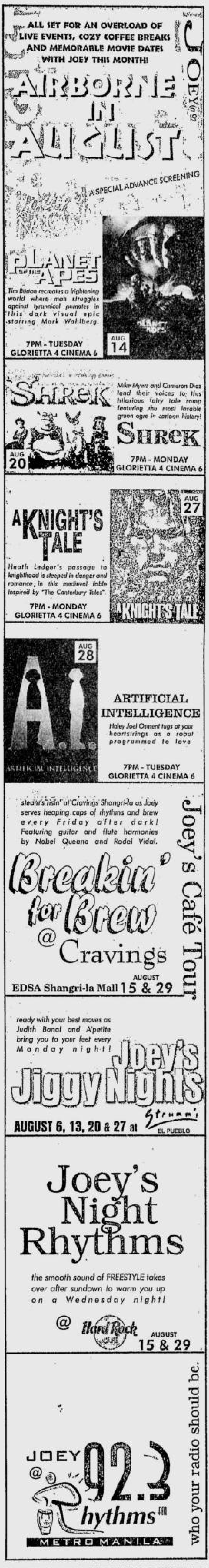

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RED DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT/EYES WHITE SHOOT
ODEON	JURASSIC PARK 3
ODEON-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
ROBEN	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	EXIT WOUNDS/MEXICAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RED DIARIES
QUEZON-1	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABALENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MAHAL KITA KAHIT.
CINEMA-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-3	BAGANSYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	DRIVEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	TOM CATS
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-2	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PAHANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NANANABIK
CINEMA-2	JULIETA
CINEMA-4	SCARED

'Bridget Jones' Diary' premiere

"BRIDGET Jones' Diary," starring Renee Zellweger, premieres Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. at Robinson's Place Movieworld.

Cap the night with the fun and exciting "Resolutions: The Singles Street Party," with lots of games, prizes and loads of food and booze.

There will also be a fashion show of Ms Selfridge, Top Shop and Top Man, plus performance of a top show band.

Based on the best-selling novel of Helen Fielding, the screen adaptation also stars Hugh Grant and Colin Firth.

To avail of tickets, join the radio promo on 93.9 dwKC FM. You may also get tickets when you purchase Ms Selfridge and KFC products, Doritos or Lays at Robinson's Place Manila.

The "Search for Bridget" is also on. If you're a single working woman named Bridget, get a chance to win cool prizes. Just present two valid IDs with picture.

Action flicks on video

AMONG the country's junior action stars, Ian Veneracion, Jeric Raval and Ronald Gan Ledesma are on the running to take the place of the action superstars such as Fernando Poe Jr., Phillip Salvador and Rudy Fernandez.

Find out as C-Interactive Digital Entertainment releases the latest action blockbusters on video.

Ian makes his mark in "Sgt. Maderazo: Bayad na Pati Kaluluwa Mo," an action-packed vehicle that takes a glimpse at the controversial devil-worshipping cult which victimizes young maidens in a remote town. Costarring LJ Moreno.

Jeric proves his worth in "Bala Ko . . . Bahala sa 'Yo," an action flick that deals on syndicated drug trafficking and hostage-taking. Via Veloso and Kier Legaspi also star.

Ronald Gan stars in "Hindi Sisiw ang Kalaban Mo," a star-studded film that takes the audience into the underworld of assassins and sexy baits. With Roi Vinzon, Rita Magdalena, Ramona Revilla and Zoren Legaspi.

For inquiries, call 245-5011 to 12.

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Starring:
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Alternative approaches and stellar combinations

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FEWER people are watching Filipino movies these days, and producers are taking the current slump to mean that viewers have gotten tired of the standard stuff that the local film industry has been churning out for many years.

Thus, they've been trying to come up with alternative approaches and stellar combinations, hoping that moviegoers may find at least some of them fresh enough to want to patronize them.

One example is the unusual pairing of **Robin Padilla** and **Regine Velasquez** in the hit film, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." Robin is an action star, but in that film, he turned in an unexpectedly more natural and less super-heroic portrayal that moviegoers found appealing.

However, when Robin tried to go for broke again in his recent movie with **Rica Peralejo**, moviegoers were less supportive. Which just goes to show: on the fast-changing local film scene these days, you've always got to keep one step ahead of fans' preferences.

A new film, "Red Diaries" is trying to go the usual sexy route, but with an unusual attraction in the formerly sweet **Assunta de Rossi**, who for the first time goes not just sexy but even topless in the flick.

It's expected that male voyeurs will patronize the film to catch their first glimpse of Assunta's newly-unveiled epidermal delights, so the movie should do well commercially. But what about after that? What more will Assunta be prepared to show?

The object lesson here is the case of Rica Peralejo, who sizzled onscreen last year but has turned relatively modest of late, with a corresponding decline in her stellar fortunes.

Another alternative move is being made by **Yam Laranas**' new film, "Radyo," which topbills the new combination of **Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Jeffrey Quizon**. The movie's fresh appeal is due to its lively visualizations and sardonic storytelling style.

It remains to be seen if these will be enough to interest young viewers in the film, but at least the attempt is being made to shake up the local movie industry's standard visualizations, to more faithfully capture the quirky, edgy tempo of modern life.

Also interesting is director **Joyce Bernal**'s decision to stop making trendy romantic-comedy movies for now, and instead direct "Jologs," a film about today's youth.

As you can see, these alternative films all have the youth in mind, and that's only logical, since young viewers now make up the bulk of the local film audience.

But we hope that filmmakers will embark on other types of alternative movies, like inspiring films for the family, and production that tackle important national issues.

Ordinarily, these movies wouldn't be considered "Alternative," but in our generally escapist film culture, that's what they are.

New examples of this include **Laurice Guillen**'s "American Adobo" (on Filipinos in the States) and **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "Mindanao" (in that conflict in the south). We hope that viewers will patronize these bravely different films when they're shown this year.

Feedback

FROM **Nathaniel R. Odulio** of Makati City: "The high cost of going to the movies has gone even higher. And no ceiling appears to be in sight, since we hear about malls modernizing their theaters and then adding the cost to the ticket prices.

"This makes the Philippines no longer one of the cheapest places in Asia to see a movie, and moviegoing is no longer the cheapest form of entertainment for the masa—radio and TV have taken over.

"Definitely, ticket prices have to be lowered to make moviegoing popular again. As far as I'm concerned, I'm prepared to pay only as high as P60 a movie. Beyond that, I can find cheaper and maybe even better things to do . . ."

DINO-SEQUEL. After "JP3," watch out for "JP4."

'Unbreakable' now on video

"UNBREAKABLE," the exciting thriller that reunites screen hero Bruce Willis and writer-director M. Night Shyamalan, is now available on video.

The two first worked together in the huge box-office hit, "The Sixth Sense."

In "Unbreakable," Willis plays a security guard who survives a disastrous train wreck that kills 118 passengers and seven crew members. Not only is he alive after the crash, but he's completely unharmed.

Samuel L. Jackson helps him release his superhero potentials and changes his life forever.

The video is exclusively distributed by Buenavista Home Entertainment. It is now available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats at Video City, Astrovision, SM Department stores, National Bookstore branches, Tower Records and other leading video stores nationwide.

Dinosaurs without Spielberg

BY PAUL DAZA

REVIEW

THANKS to the amazing computer graphic wizardry, flawless pacing, and a welcome absence of scientific mumbo jumbo, "Jurassic Park 3" emerges as an exciting nail-biter which is superior in every way to 1997's dino-sequel, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park."

For those who aren't expecting much from "JP3" because it's the first "Jurassic" movie *not* directed by Steven Spielberg, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

Even Spielberg fans will have to admit that "JP3" is a better movie than they would have predicted. The director of the third installment, Joe Johnston, has reenergized the series, which hit a low point with the ludicrous "T-rex in San Diego" sequence from "JP2."

Most viewers won't even notice Spielberg's absence because director Johnston has cloned Spielberg's kinetic visual style to near-perfection. Not only that: Spielberg is listed in the credits as executive producer, and was thus involved in every aspect of this movie's creation.

In other words, "JP3" isn't a low-budget rip-off.

Master and genius

The only thing lacking in Johnston's direction is the Spielberg gift for turning ordinary objects into cues for unbearable suspense.

DINOSAURS/ A27

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20	MOULIN ROUGE - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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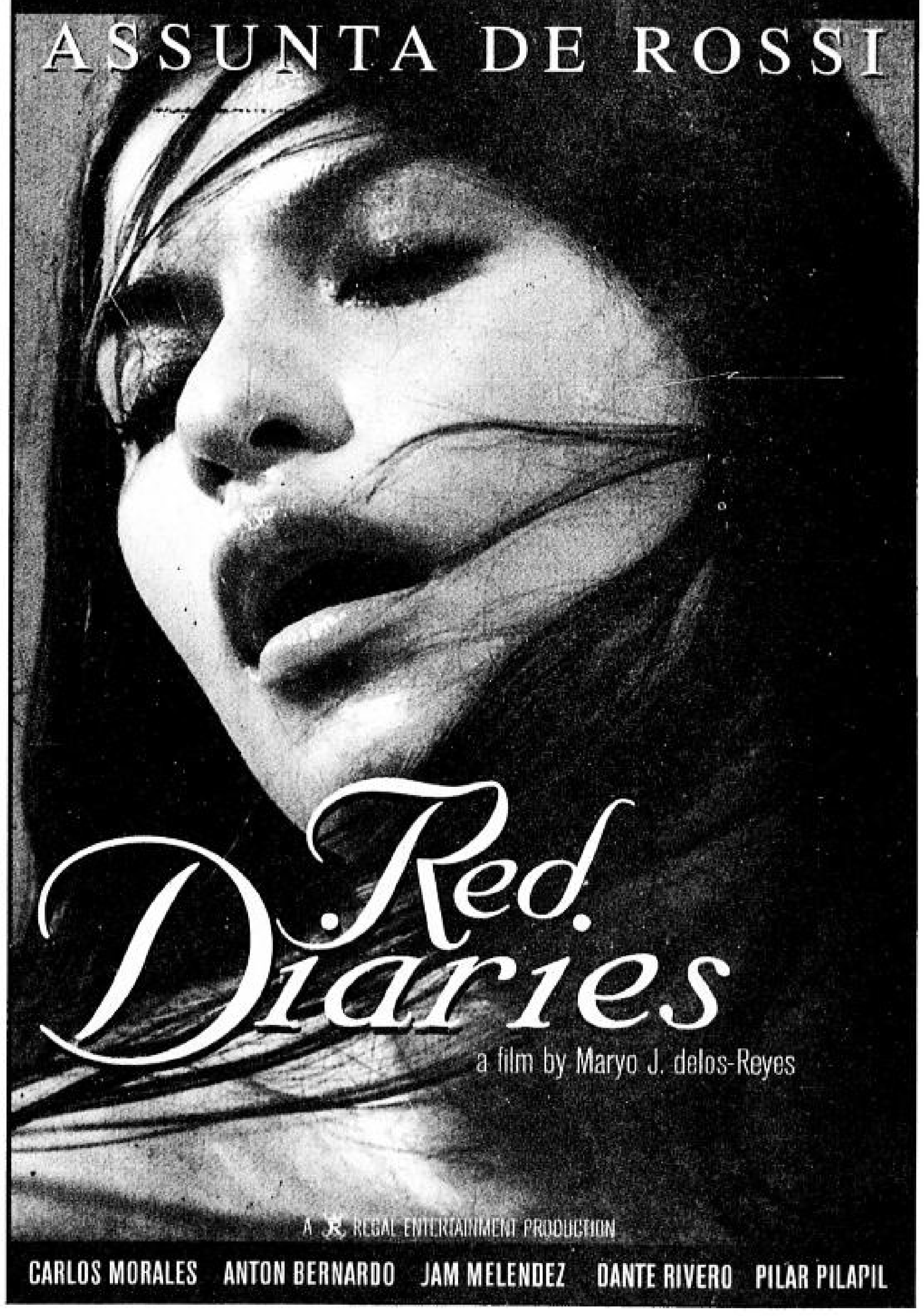
ASSUNTA BARES ALL HER SECRET


ASSUNTA DE ROSSI
Red Diaries
a film by Maryo J. delos-Reyes
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
CARLOS MORALES ANTON BERNARDO JAM MELENDEZ DANTE RIVERO PILAR PILAPIL

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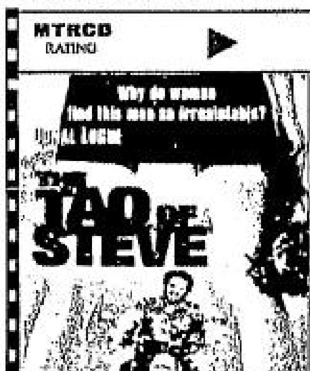

Why do women find this man so irresistable?
DONAL LOGUE
THE TAO OF STEVE

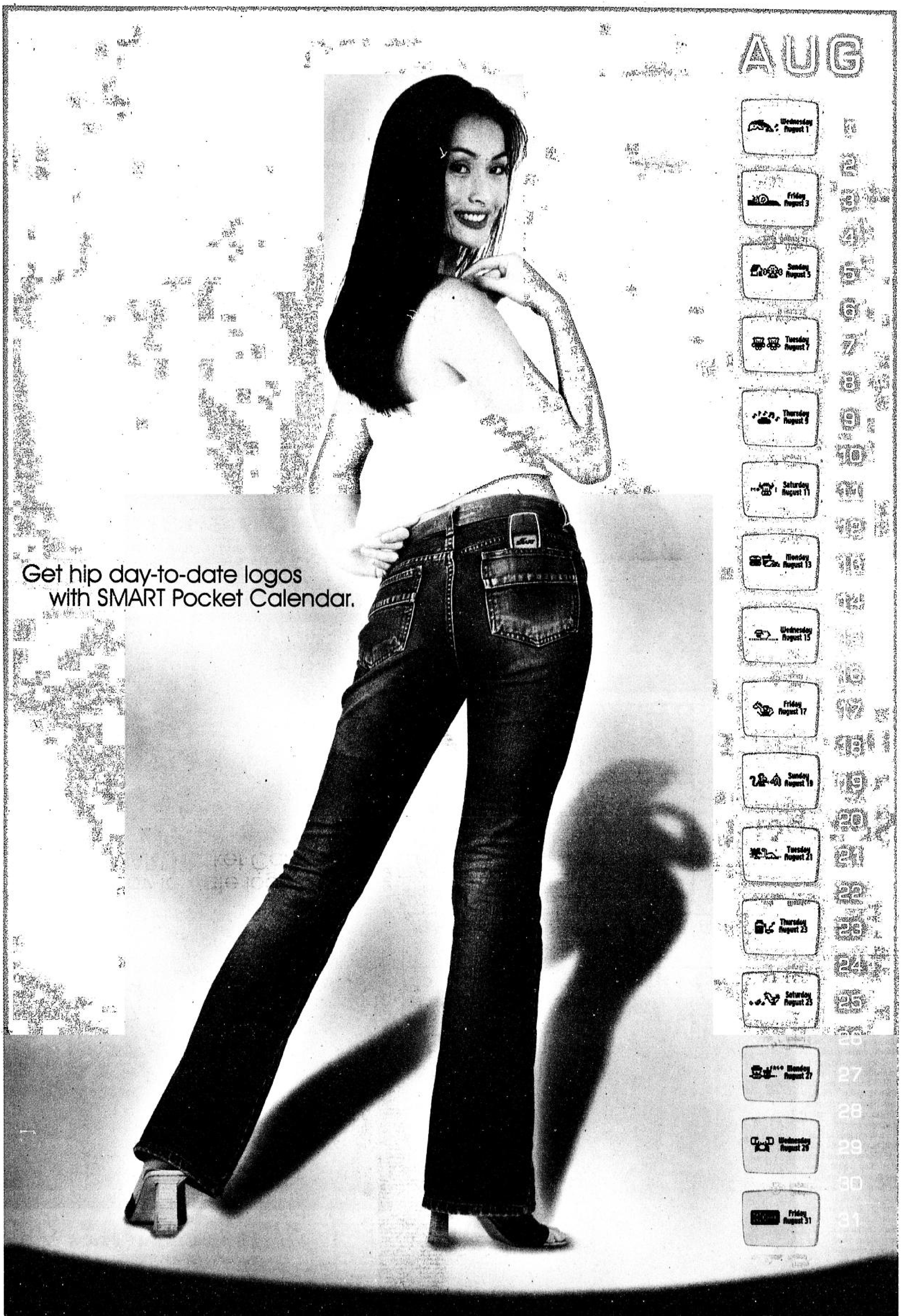
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
Why do women find this man so irressistable?
THE TAO OF STEVE

Dex (Donal Logue) is a lovable kindergarten teacher who has extraordinary success with women, and a sexual appetite to match. Women go crazy for him, and men admire his finely-tuned romantic philosophy. The only woman who is not wooed by his charms is Syd (Greer Goodman), an old college friend. THE TAO OF STEVE is a light and spunky romantic comedy directed by Jenniphr Goodman.The film, and Logue's role in it, got the Outstanding Performance Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2000.

"ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE FILMS AT SUNDANCE & ONE OF THE MOST DISARMING ROMANTIC COMEDIES I'VE SEEN IN YEARS."
-Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE

"HILARIOUS & HEARTFELT! DONAL LOGUE'S KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE SHOULD MAKE HIM A STAR."
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"A WONDERFULLY WITTY ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT HAS BOTH CRITICS & AUDIENCES RAVING!"
-JonathanForeman, NEW YORK POST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B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▩ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Gov't nears deal on ₱30-B housing plan

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

GOVERNMENT financial institutions are firming up a securitization deal with foreign investors worth up to P30 billion to implement President Macapagal's pledge to provide more housing units for the poor.

Embattled Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas yesterday said that a deal with a foreign group could be closed within the next two to three weeks to cover the P30 billion pledged by the President during her first state-of-the-nation address.

He said SSS was still in the thick of discussions with other government institutions involved in the big housing securitization project spearheaded by housing czar Michael Defensor.

He said the government was now talking to two foreign groups, but one of them would hopefully give a firm commitment very soon. He declined to name the foreign groups.

Among the GFIs also tapped by Malacañang to raise part of the additional budget for housing is Government Service Insurance System.

Securitization is the process of distributing risk by pooling debt instruments, then issuing new securities backed by the pool.

Only assets that are profitable are usually attractive for *securitization*. For instance, the government was earlier considering raising funds by *securitizing* the future earnings of profitable casino monopoly Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. This strategy will allow the government to get future earnings of Pagcor upfront, which it could use for its present needs.

Once the money is raised, the housing allocation could come in different forms such as bonds, direct loans, intermediate loans and fund assistance to housing projects, Nañagas said.

Earlier, GSIS said it was hatching a new housing program that would open up P6 billion in fresh direct loans to its members.

In an interview, GSIS president Winston Garcia said the pension fund was set to go full-blast into direct lending, targeting at least 10 to 20 percent of its 1.5 million members to avail themselves of housing loans during his term.

But the GSIS chief said that while the pension fund would take an active role in housing loans, these would be administered by the fund itself. He said GSIS would no longer lend through conduit real estate developers or banks.

He noted that the country still had a big backlog of housing requirements. For instance, he said the P6-billion allocation for the new housing facility from GSIS could only build 30,000 housing units.

Nevertheless, Garcia said the new facility should make it easier for the fund's members to own houses. As the facility would not be coursed through conduits, he said there would be less constraints for borrowers.

"If you have a lot, no matter how small it is, and if you have the capacity to pay, we will let you borrow money according to your capacity. You'll be given a choice of pre-designs and after you pick up the design, we'll give you all the plans. All you need is to look for a format. We don't require you to be in a subdivision nor require drainage that we usually required before," Garcia said.

The new housing program, Garcia said, was in line with the pension fund's strategy to increase benefits to its members. He said that the fund had already ceased lending to big corporate borrowers and would instead concentrate on lending programs that would benefit its members.

GSIS' best performing investments, at present, are the salary loans to its members, which earn for it around 15 percent a year and has a 95-percent collection efficiency rate and zero default rate. The fund earlier announced plans to securitize these receivables and later on issue up to P40 billion worth of such asset-backed securities.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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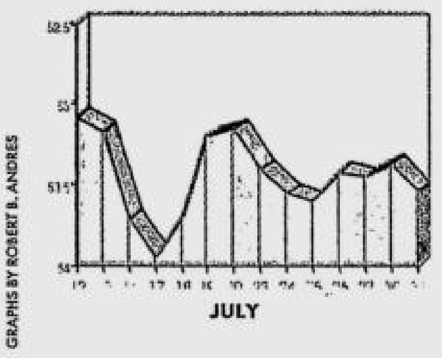


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱53.54 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 31, 2001

¥124.78 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.78 as of 5 p.m., July 31, 2001

GOLD:$265.20/265.70
per ounce Hong Kong, July 31, 2001

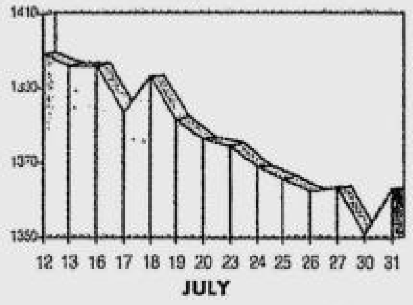
STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

SHARES closed higher yesterday on a technical rebound following recent losses, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 11.94 points, or 0.9 percent, at 1362.89, after dipping to a fresh nine-month closing low Monday.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Volume rose to 615.4 million shares worth P406.2 million from 408.66 million shares worth P322.94 million the previous day. *AP*

Bourse to launch dollar-denominated trade facility

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

IN ANOTHER attempt to attract more foreign inflow and boost the battered market, the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday announced that it would initiate a dollar-denominated trading (DDT) facility very soon.

The PSE said the DDT would enhance its present trading infrastructure by allotting an extended off-floor trading session in the afternoon for trades of securities of Philippine companies that are also listed offshore.

Initially, the DDT will be restricted to trading of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life of Canada. The PSE, noted, however, that additional issues or instruments could be offered upon the determination and approval of the PSE, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"The offering of the facility aims to eliminate exchange rate volatility risks by enabling trades to be strictly denominated in US dollars, from actual trade execution to final settlement," the PSE said.

"By providing an additional market to its potential participants, depending on the performance or the success of the facility, the DDT is also expected to be an aid to the Philippine stock market's downturn and lack of volume," it noted.

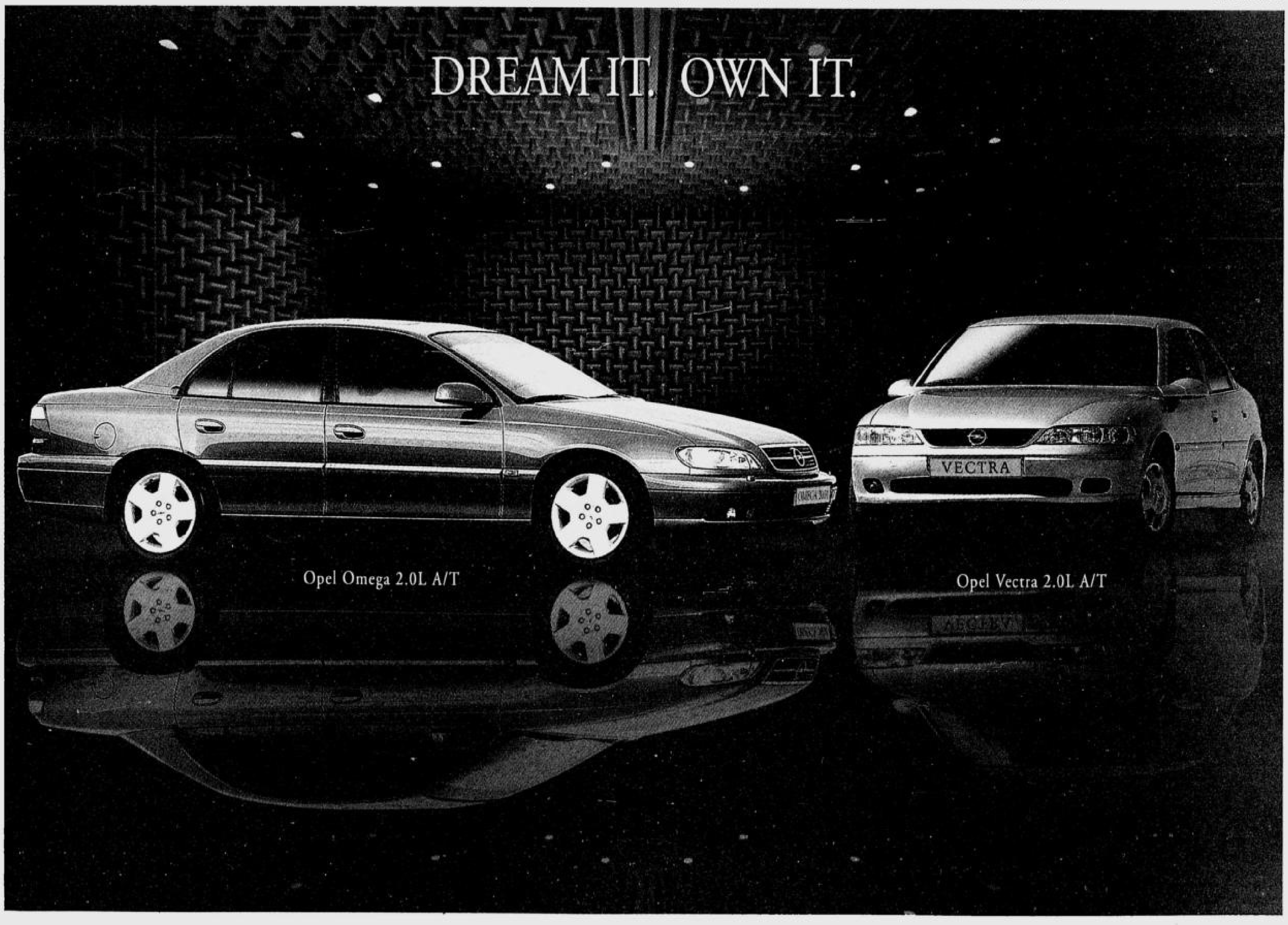
During the first half of the year, the main-share PSE composite index opened at 1,448.49 and closed at 1,410.07, representing a decline of 2.7 percent.

On the other hand, value turnover in the local stock market shrunk by 57.3 percent to P95 billion during the first six months of the year from P222.48 billion in the same period last year. This meant that average daily volume slowed to only P772.6 million during the period from P1.77 billion in the same semester last year.

The poor market volume has squeezed the profit margins of brokerage houses, specially foreign-owned units, which were paying for higher overhead costs. This year, several foreign brokerage houses have already shut down their Philippine operations, among them BNP Paribas, Securities 2000 Inc., UOB Securities, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities.

The PSE also said the DDT would

BOURSE/ B2



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	Wagon	₱ 1,710.000	₱ 855,000	₱ 47,500	ZERO% INTEREST
VECTRA 2.0L A/T	Sedan	₱ 1,165.000	₱ 582,500	₱ 32,362	ZERO% INTEREST
	Wagon	₱ 1,245.000	₱ 622,500	₱ 34,583	ZERO% INTEREST
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US firm remains bullish on RP

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

AMERICAN investment giant State Street Global Advisors (SSgA) is scouting for new investment opportunities in the Philippines despite the difficult economic environment.

SSgA president and CEO Timothy Harbert, who is in town to have a first-hand assessment of the conditions here, said his company would like to sift through the rubble as well as introduce new financial products.

"I am impressed by your resilience despite the recent political turmoil and economic difficulties. I have no doubt that you will be successful in meeting the challenges you face. Your democratic institutions are sturdy. Your economic fundamentals are basically sound," Harbert said during cocktails hosted by leisure and IT holding company Boulevard Holdings Inc. Monday night.

Speculations that BHI, which is owned by the Panlilio family, might be hatching an investment deal with SSgA drove up the company's share price at the Philippine Stock Exchange the morning before the cocktail party. The price of BHI shares, the top gainer in the market, rose 23.81 percent to 26 centavos on Monday.

BHI officials said that the investment fund, however, was looking at new investments in the Philippines in general and not specifically at BHI. SSgA currently has some $120 million in exposure to the Philippine equity market.

He said the Philippines has made great strides over the last several years across many fronts, weathering challenges to democratic institutions.

"The government has made great strides investing in the country's infrastructure, including communications, transport and power. The Philippines has attracted substantial foreign direct investment seeking to tap your greatest asset, your people," he said.

"You continue to enjoy substantial comparative advantage in the high levels of literacy and education of your population, the work ethic and creative thinking of the Filipino people, the use of technology, and the widespread use of the English language," he stressed.

Harbert noted, however, that among the challenges faced by the government would be to maintain aggressive support programs for the poor while exercising fiscal prudence and controlling budget deficits. He also noted that the government must remain committed to an aggressive privatization and deregulation program.

Security Bank nets ₱241M

SECURITY Bank Corp. booked a first semester net income of P241 million, a 5-percent growth over the P229 million earned in the same period last year.

The growth in earnings was attributed to strong revenues derived from sustained margins, and increased fee-based income sources. Net margins increased through the expansion of earning assets, it said.

The bank said its efforts to achieve revenue growth and better control of operating expenses resulted in a significant improvement in its cost-to-income ratio.

With the bank's focus on asset quality and maintaining a robust balance sheet, it said it increased its provisioning for loan risk reserves during the first half of the year to 54 percent of its non-performing loans. The increased level of provisioning further strengthened the bank's status as one of the more prudent and stable in the industry, it said.

At the end of the first semester, Security Bank maintained its resources at the P65 billion level. Loans amounted to P32 billion, with investment securities at P11 billion. Deposits amounted to P42 billion, while capital funds stood at P8.9 billion.

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DISCLOSURES

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. clarified that the pre-emptive stock rights offering approved by the board also refers to the 48,190,515 shares of the unissued portion of the authorized capital stock of 100 million shares of the company.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. will hold an investors' briefing today at 10 a.m. at the Magellan's Galley, 2nd Floor SMPC Tower, Mandaluyong.

* * *

iVANTAGE Corp. on July 30 concluded the management buyout of its 51-percent equity interest in **Lucky Star Network Communications Corp.** consisting of 637,500 shares with a total par value of P63.75 million for a total consideration of P98 million.

* * *

MARIO J. Padilla resigned as president of **UrbanCorp Realty Developers Inc.** effective Aug. 10.

* * *

ELECTED as directors of **Wise Holdings Inc.** were Renato Francisco, Vicente Campa Jr., Eduardo Alino, Rolando David, Enrique Esteban, Juliano Lim, Lazaro Madara, Ramon Mapa, Antonio Ortigas, Augustus Paiso and V. Francisco Varua.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 20,000 AMC shares at P2.02 per share last July 30 for the company's stock buyback program. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

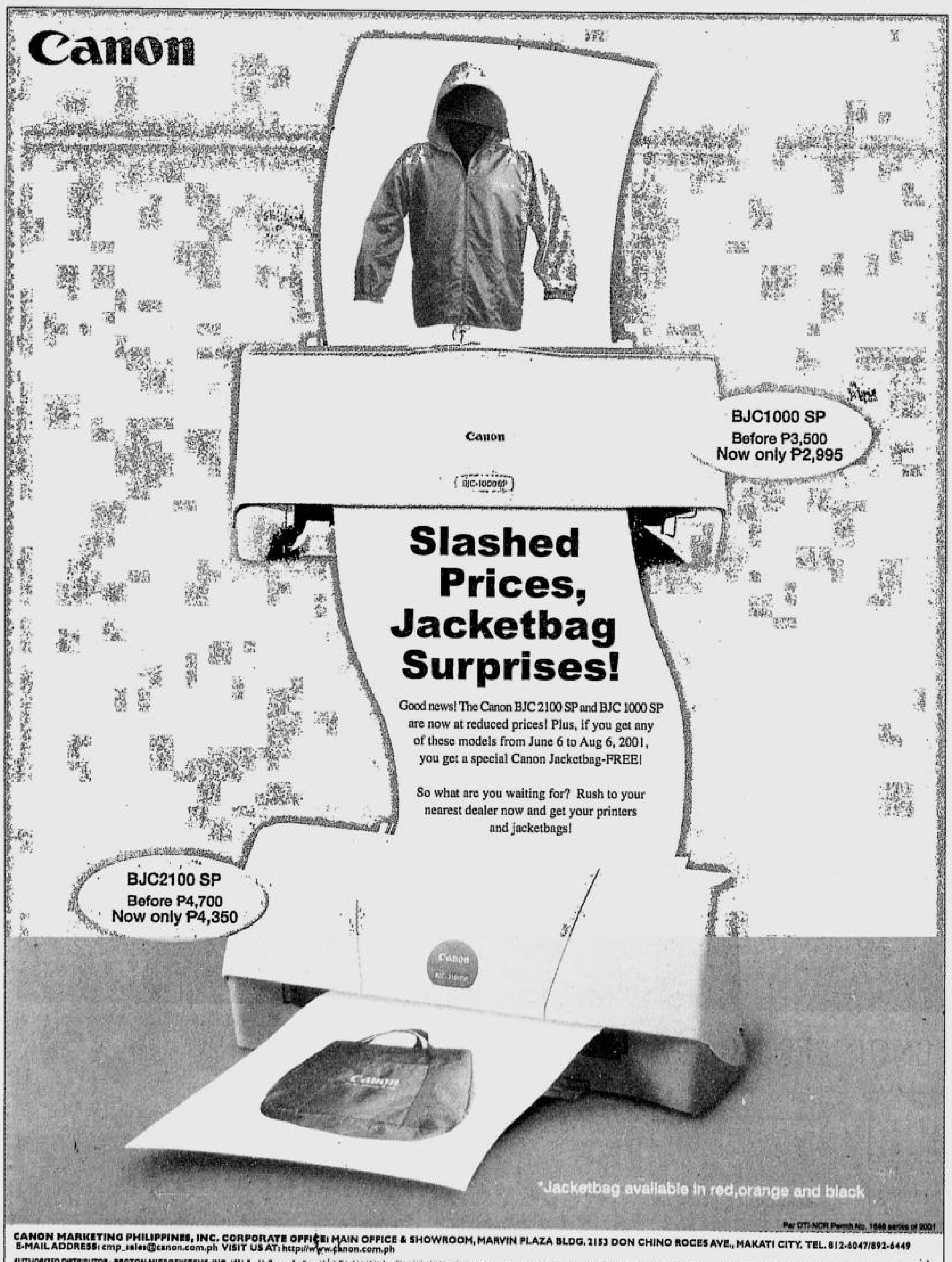
Bourse . . .

(From page B1)

introduce an attractive environment for cross-border investments in the country, thereby preparing the exchange for such as infrastructure.

The statement said preliminary discussions and consultative meetings with foreign brokers and banks have been conducted for the development of the facility. The PSE is simply awaiting approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission on the rules and guidelines for the facility.

This is not the first time that the local stock market will attempt to introduce dollar-denominated trading of securities. Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman & Co. Inc., said that 15 years ago, the old Manila Stock Exchange launched a similar facility.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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, July 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66	69	66	67.5	179,600
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	430
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36.5	36.5	36	36	178,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	210	205	210	56,010
Philippine National Bank	42	46.5	42	46	400,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	120,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	244	235	244	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1500	1515	1500	1510	8,380
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1315	1320	1315	1315	19,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37	37.5	37	37.5	7,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	665	665	665	500
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.5	10,410,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2,000
Piltel	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.55	270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	685	665	675	48,540
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	21,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37	37	37	37	14,100
Manila Electric Co. B	45	46	44.5	44.5	1,123,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.9	1.82	1.88	2,497,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.08	2.2	2.08	2.2	566,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.46	30,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	410,000
Construction & Other Related PRODUCT		S			
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	140,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	367,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	45,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	7,291,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	37,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	17,900
RFM Corp.	2.26	2.32	2.2	2.28	2,337,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42.5	42	42.5	20,100
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57	56	56	748,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	5,718,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.54	1.46	1.54	1,252,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11	1,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.18	2,336,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	125,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	39,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.5	11,600
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.28	3,900,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.76	1.8	5,200,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	710,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.135	0.115	0.135	6,300,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	199,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	110,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	200,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	94,500
Ipeople Inc. B	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.02	623,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	3,210,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	4,620,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	3,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4.4	4.4	4	4	16,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	130,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.8	110,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,760,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	5	15,000
Music Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	242,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.59	0.54	0.59	10,670,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	130,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	53,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	38.5	37.5	38	55,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	9.3	9.7	9.3	9.7	4,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	165,000,000
Pldt (10% Pref) Series F	10	10	10	10	3,000
Pldt (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
Pldt (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	3,000
Pldt (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	4,000
Pldt (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Pldt (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	1,200
Pldt (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Pldt (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
Pldt (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.016	57,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	6,011,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	2,880,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	820,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.9	2,043,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	44,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	2,062,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.042	14,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	900,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	55,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	47,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	5,600,000

CURRENCIES

July 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.143380	1.000000	53.5620
Japan	Yen	0.009144	0.007997	0.4283
United Kingdom	Pound	1.631146	1.426600	76.4115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146776	0.128370	6.8758
Switzerland	Franc	0.662062	0.579039	31.0145
Canada	Dollar	0.747307	0.653595	35.0079
Singapore	Dollar	0.633452	0.554017	29.6743
Australia	Dollar	0.578048	0.505561	27.0789
Bahrain	Dinar	3.032999	2.652661	142.0818
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304902	0.266667	14.2832
Brunei	Dollar	0.635494	0.555803	29.7699
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000104	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.025014	0.021877	1.1718
UAE	Dirham	0.311378	0.272331	14.5866
Korea	Won	0.000883	0.000772	0.0413
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.874600	46.8453
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.447176	23.9516
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133332	7.1415
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.396876	21.2575
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063560	3.4044
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021681	1.1613
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000452	0.0242
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147097	7.8788
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004362	0.2336
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005256	0.2815
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021681	1.1613
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.110513	59.4813

Dinner with GMA

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

WE do not know what we have done to deserve a Malacañang invitation but we found ourselves having dinner with the President Monday night—this columnist, editorial consultant Amando Doronila and Jorge Aruta, the opinion editor.

Columnist Conrado de Quiros was a no-show, despite having confirmed attendance.

Judging from the media meetings Ms Macapagal-Arroyo has been holding since last week—another dinner with another group of newspaper editors/columnists was scheduled last night—our guess is that the President is on a charm offensive.

Of course if you ask the INQUIRER detractors, the President meeting with the INQUIRER is like a preacher proselytizing before the faithful.

Like many Filipinos, two of the three invitees came in horologically challenged, (dinner was set at seven and ended before the clock struck nine), but the hostess gave such a seamless welcome that the guests no longer needed to explain the protocolar infraction.

The dinner was held in one corner of the Mabini Hall, which is now adorned by portraits of the previous First Ladies and the first First Gentleman, opposition's flavor of the month, Mike Arroyo. The second-floor hall, for those unfamiliar with the Malacañang layout, is on the left of the staircase by the Palace's main door.

As in any similar gatherings, the conversation was more important than the food itself. In any case, dinner consisted of asparagus soup, fried boneless *bangus, bistek Tagalog, lumpiang hubad*, a bowl of rice each, two slices of ripe mango for dessert, and the customary after-dinner coffee or tea.

A bottle of red Italian wine (a 1998 Banfi Col-di-Sasso) brought by one of the guests was also served.

The President proved to be a bubbly hostess, and conveyed the impression, with her anecdotes and inside information about the burning issues of the day, that she enjoys her job, which is a good sign.

Despite having a reputation of being a tattle tale, we unfortunately could not share the wealth of information shared with us, they having been given off the record.

Except a few.

The President thinks that the opposition, more than she or her husband, will get whiplashed if they persist in investigating the controversial congressional franchise given to a Jaime Dichaves group, especially if the bill's legislative route is traced from its original author/sponsors.

In addition to thanking Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for brokering peace talks between warring Muslim insurgent factions in Mindanao, the President will ask the Malaysian leader during their meeting next week in Kuala Lumpur to prevail on the Malaysian principals of National Steel Corp. to throw no more legal obstacles for the reopening of the steel mill.

The President also told presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao and Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, who joined the dinner, that it would be a "good idea" for Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to furnish the Piatco oppositors a copy of the Erap-amended B-O-T contract for the Naia Terminal 3.

Former Customs Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, who is now a consultant to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, will be appointed chief of a customs task force similar to Aduana that will go after big-time technical smugglers.

Finally, we do not know what malevolent airs we may have brought into the Palace but we could not help but notice that the President was frequently scratching her right knee during cocktails and even throughout the dinner.

Shangri-La beats Shangri-La

THIS is a case of a local David trouncing a regional Goliath.

Shangri-La, a restaurant off West Avenue specializing in Chinese cuisine, has won a Supreme Court ruling that prevents the Shangri-La hotel chain from asking the patents office to cancel the right of the Chinese restaurant to use a similar mark and logo.

The Supreme Court, in a decision released earlier this month, noted that a case is still pending with the Court of Appeals precisely to determine who has the exclusive right to the Shangri-La mark and logo.

The restaurant, owned by Ramon Syhunliong, won the first round when the Quezon City Regional Trial Court ruled in March 1996 that Syhunliong had locally registered the trademark first.

The Shangri-La and Kuok group appealed the RTC ruling; in the meantime, the group filed a parallel complaint with the Intellectual Property Office's Bureau of Legal Affairs, asking the patents office to nullify the local restaurant's trademark.

"To allow the Bureau to proceed with the cancellation case would lead to a possible result contradictory to that which the Regional Trial Court has rendered, albeit the same is still on appeal," said Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago.

"Such a situation is certainly not in accord with the orderly administration of justice."

The Shangri-La-Kuok group is represented by the law firm of Andres Narvasa, the Erap lawyer-ex-Chief Justice. The Chinese restaurant, on the other hand, is represented by Bernardo Fernandez and Cesar Sandiego, whose law office is somewhere in the warrens of Santol, Quezon City.

Heard through the grapevine

IN addition to getting in bed with Jaime Dichaves-nominee Pacifico Marcelo and Erap lawyer Edward Serapio in the board of sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., the group of Philcomsat president Honorio Poblador III also hired Leah V. Ledesma as assistant vice president for marketing of Philcomsat subsidiary Call Telecomm.

Ledesma, if you have been reading the papers, is one of the incorporators/directors of the APC Wireless that had been granted a controversial congressional franchise by the Erap-holdover Congress.

A 1989 BS Statistics honors graduate of the University of the Philippines, Ledesma worked for Philamlife, PLDT and Samsung Electronics before joining Philcomsat.

Poblador, of course, is said to be the closest classmate of Atenean Mike Arroyo.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

BIR to pursue new measures to boost collection

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has vowed to pursue the collection of more than P100 billion worth of unpaid taxes from the Marcos family and taipan Lucio Tan as part of the revenue thrusts that the agency would adopt during its 97th anniversary today.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said the agency would also introduce today the voluntary assessment program and the revision in the expanded withholding tax scheme.

Bañez said the three regulations including the pursuit of compromise deals with parties that did not pay the correct taxes would be signed today by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The voluntary assessment program would allow individuals and firms that were found to be paying incorrect taxes to ask the BIR to review their obligations, a finance official explained.

The revision of the expanded withholding tax scheme, the same official said, would allow the government to advance the taxes paid, for instance, by banks on their interest.

The new regulation, Bañez said, would allow the agency to improve its earnings even after it was allowed by the economic team to bring down its revenue collection target this year by P20 billion to P388 billion.

Bañez said the BIR would be working closely with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in probing the books of 27 traders from banks and money-changing companies as well as 14 large clients for possible tax liabilities in relation to their foreign exchange transactions.

The BIR commissioner said that while the government has created a task force early this year to start collecting unpaid taxes not only of the Marcos family and Tan but also of former President Estrada and his associate Dante Tan of BW Resources Corp., he said some of these cases were pending in the courts.

An ongoing court case, he said, may hinder the BIR from aggressively pursuing the tax collection.

COUNTRY SHARES

As of July 31, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8 M/2.1 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/110,000*
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000	400,000*/450,000*/700,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	260,000/350,000*/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	400,000/450,000*
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	780,000/850,000*	800,000/900,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	250,000/425,000*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	220,000	230,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
STA. ELENA GOLF		1,800,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*		400,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	600,000
VALLE VERDE IND/CORP.	175,000/290,000	100,000
VALLEY GOLF	-	250,000
WACK WACK	8.0 M	8.5 M

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- Cavite
- Rizal
- Bulacan
- Baguio
- Nueva Ecija
- Ilocos Region
- Cebu
- Davao
- Isabela
- Cagayan De Oro
- General Santos
- Zamboanga
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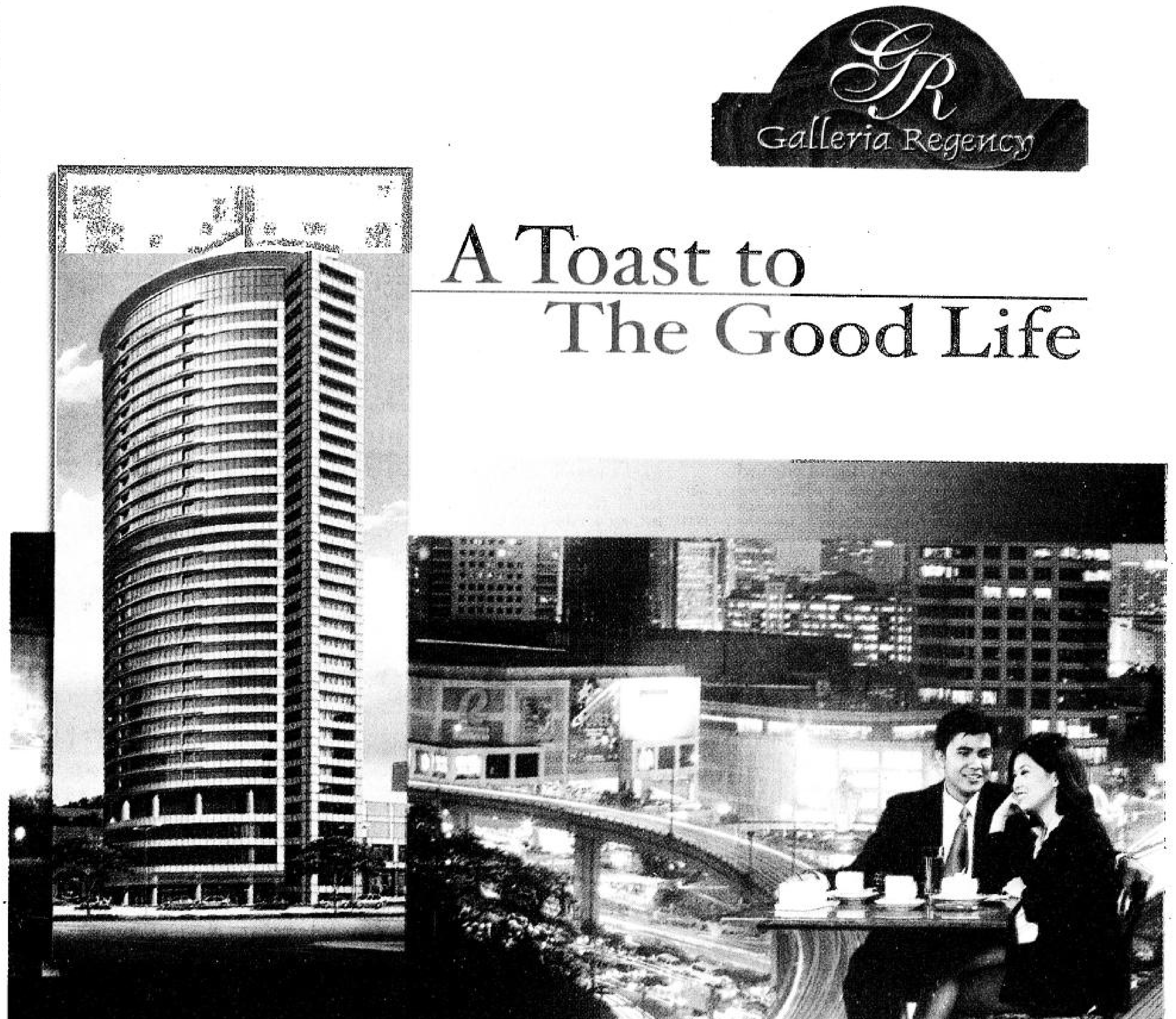

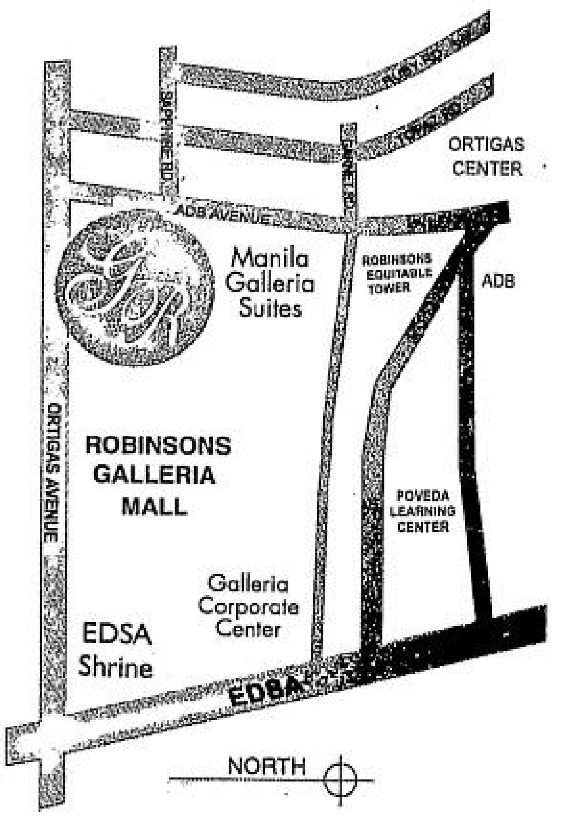

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GLOBAL LEAPS, SMART MOVES

Telecom issues seen as safe long-term bets

By Abigail L. Ho

AdeRodriguez

FOR those in the stock market for the long haul, investing in telecommunications stocks is a safe bet. Blue-chip stocks like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. have been spending heavily on new technologies to make sure that when the time comes and the market is ready, they will be in the right place raking in huge profits.

Globe and PLDT subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. are the country's biggest sellers of mobile phones, and they are competing fiercely to keep their respective share of the market. They have lured millions of consumers with their 'short messaging service'—a technology, ignored in most parts of the world, that has gained wide acceptance here as "text messaging." And they are dazzling consumers with catch phrases like "WAP" and "3G" to keep them coming. It is safe to assume then that for stock market investors, Globe and PLDT are where the money will be.

The telecommunications market remains volatile, though, as the race to be on top will always be a brutal one. For wireless industry leaders Globe and Smart, the need to be the best will force them to constantly outdo each other in rolling-out new services. The more they fight it out, the higher their stock prices will get. It is a matter of direct proportion: the more successful they are in the telecommunications market, the more viable they will be in the stock market.

How it all began

Since mobile telephones hit the Philippine market in the late '80s, the country has witnessed a gradual technological evolution.

The cellular-phone business started with the analog platform that Express Telecommunications Co. introduced in 1988. The following year, handset manufacturer Nokia Ojy brought GSM (global system for mobile communications)-enabled handsets to the country. A year later, three new players came into the scene: Globe, Smart and Isla Communications Inc.

Among these new players, Globe decided to take the road less traveled by. It embraced GSM. In those days, analog—the anti-thesis of GSM, or digital—was a more practical choice because the infrastructure was there and it was cheaper. The problem was that it was a dead-end technology. There wasn't much you can add to it. There was also the problem with cloning and theft. Analog phones and their signals were easy to intercept and duplicate.

In the mid-'90s, mobile phone companies that sold analog handsets were swamped with complaints of cloning and wrong bills. It was not uncommon in those days for subscribers to be billed hundreds of thousands of pesos for calls they did not make. This was when Globe began to take off.

Digital payback

Embracing digital technology early on, Globe offered consumers products that were nearly clone-proof. GSM was a tough nut to crack even for dedicated hackers. Even if they could, it would not be practical because of the long hours and money they needed. The downside was that digital cellular phones were still too expensive for the average consumer. They were also too costly to use.

But Globe had one trick up its sleeve: short messaging service, or SMS. SMS, which allowed Globe users to type and send "text messages" using their mobile phones, was just a value-added service to Globe's handsets, a residue, and it took a while before consumers got the point. When they did, however, there was a feeding frenzy. People were snapping up Globe handsets like there was no tomorrow and sending millions of text messages each day. In just a few years, the Philippines had become the "text capital" of the world, and the words "texted" and "texting" became part of the vernacular.

It did not take long before Smart caught up with the bandwagon and made a strong push to catch up. It scrapped its analog network and invested heavily in GSM.

With the unexpected growth in subscribers, however, Globe and Smart had to deal with the problem of congestion. The problem became serious last year that the government threatened to bar the two companies from accepting new subscribers until they could prove that their networks could handle the additional load. Globe and Smart eventually found a way to ease the congestion, and business had since continued booming.

Higher plane

SMS ceased to be a free service last year, but this had not deterred subscribers from using the service. More convenient, high-technology features later came out as cellular service providers competed for more subscribers and greater revenues.

"We wanted to use SMS and take it to a higher plane," Smart's spokesperson, Ramon Isberto, said.

Last year, Globe and Smart introduced a wide range of services that subscribers could avail of through text messaging. By accessing portals Globe eXplore or Smart zed, a mobile phone user may request for ring tones, logos and information ranging from the funny and entertaining to the practical and informative.

"With Smart zed, we offer pull services—you send a text message and you get a response—so you're actually pulling a response from the network such as horoscopes, quotes, jokes and a host of other information," said Isberto.

Globe offers similar services, but Isberto says Smart's edge over its closest competitor is its ability to provide "push services."

"(Smart subscribers) can program their system by going to the Smart website or to the Smart zed portal to request for services like personalized daily traffic reports. We're the only one able to provide these push services," he said.

He adds that Smart zed is not just a portal but a platform itself, so more services can be developed using it.

"We're clearly in a superior position to offer new services because of this. Our mobile banking function is just one of these services. Our Smart Money service may also serve as another platform in the future," he said.

To further improve its GSM network, Smart is currently engaged in its Phase 5 expansion program, which entails a substantial P21-billion investment.

Not to be outdone, Globe also has some things up its sleeves. This month, Globe signed loan deals worth P1.2 billion and $211 million to help finance its Phase 8A expansion program set to be completed by year's end.

"Of Globe's $750-million capex (capital expenditures) for the year, $690 million is allotted for wireless services. Around $330 million of this is for our Phase 8A expansion," Globe president and chief executive officer Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

Combinations

To further strengthen their foothold in the Philippine wireless market, Globe and Smart have acquired other telecommunications firms. Globe has merged with Isla Communications Inc. while Smart has integrated Pilipino Telephone Corp.

"But integration is challenging, so we have to make sure that our combination with Islacom proceeds smoothly," Ablaza said.

He added that this integration would be earnings dilutive at first, but would become value accretive in the long run.

"Globe now has an improved reach. Aside from covering around two-thirds of Metro Manila, Globe now also has a presence in the Visayas through Islacom," Ablaza said.

As of the end of the first quarter, Globe has reported more than 3 million subscribers.

Ablaza said there had been an increase since then, but the exact figures would be disclosed only during its investors' briefing in mid-July.

As for the Smart-Piltel integration, this has increased Smart's subscriber base to around 4.2 million as of end-April, with points of presence in different regions nationwide.

What the future holds

"Smart believes that the future is in wireless data services, so we are working on this. Voice will always remain, but the differentiation (among competitors) will always be on data services. We're now also working with organizations overseas to export new technology," Isberto said.

As for the Globe perspective, senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said: "When you're in public service like a telecommunications company is, you don't think of profit. You think of how to better improve your service to the public because profit comes after good service."

However, he did not want to disclose Globe's future plans "so as not to alert the competition."

Tighter competition

Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. is also set to roll out wireless services by next year, as soon as it raises money from a $200-million bond flotation before the year ends.

"We are now talking to our underwriters," Digitel director Lance Gokongwei said.

He added that as a new player, Digitel would be able to "avoid freshman mistakes." Base station costs had also decreased, he said, so Digitel would be able to establish "a very good network with GPRS (general packet radio service) capability at a good price."

The only disadvantage he sees is Globe's and Smart's already strong presence in the market.

"But the mobile market is very large and it continues to grow at a geometric growth rate," he said.

His father, JG Summit main man John Gokongwei, said: "We have never entered a business where we will not profit. I see at least a fair chance of success (in the cellular business)."

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. also has intentions of going into the wireless business, but a final Supreme Court decision serves as a deterrent. Extelcom filed a case against BayanTel earlier in the year, hindering it from entering the cellular business.

Extelcom, on the other hand, where BayanTel has the single biggest bloc, has also expressed plans to go digital, but has not done so yet because of lack of funds.

Judging from the number of players wanting to get their share of the market, the wireless sector has remained robust despite economic slumps. Some high-technology platforms are also already waiting in the wings, ready for the taking as soon as the market itself becomes ready to accept them.

Oil giants to give bourse big push

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SURROUNDED by a new round of kidnapping spree in Mindanao, multiplying political intrigues and threats of destabilization, the local stock market has yet to see signs of a sustained recovery.

What the market needs is a dramatic push to make everything happen, and the government has trained its sight on the long-expected listing of oil giants Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. President Macapagal-Arroyo is herself anticipating such a boost, saying the two firms' offering will give the market attractive offerings.

'Still obligatory'

Pilipinas Shell's and Caltex Philippines' initial public offerings were expected earlier this year, with the lapse of the three-year period that the downstream oil industry deregulation law gave the two firms to offer to the market at least 10 percent of their common stock.

But the Department of Justice, acting on a request from the Department of Energy, issued an opinion saying the three-year provision of the law was "only directory or permissive and will not prohibit an IPO to be conducted after the lapse of the said period."

In turn, the energy department issued supplementary rules clarifying that the IPOs were still obligatory and "shall be complied with at the soonest possible time when conditions surrounding the undertaking of such offering so warrant."

Soft, weak market

Pilipinas Shell chair Oscar Reyes explained that the company had yet to conduct an IPO because the local and international capital markets had been "quite soft and weak."

Reyes added that the local oil industry and Pilipinas Shell itself had not been able to establish a clear and strong track record of profitability. The industry posted a combined net loss of over P5 billion last year. For that year, Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines reported losses of P1.1 billion and P1.9 billion.

"An IPO under poor market conditions would have reflected negatively and would have damaged the image of the capital markets, the country and of Shell," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

He added that the decline in the Philippine Stock Exchange's composite index and in the stock price of Petron since the deregulation law was enacted strongly indicated a lack of investment appetite for oil stocks.

'We are prepared'

Reyes said Pilipinas Shell, however, had done all that was needed for an IPO.

"We are prepared, subject to the appropriate timing for a successful exercise," he said.

Caltex Philippines president Nick Florio said the company had so far set up an internal task force composed of both local and regional personnel to oversee the IPO.

"This group has since engaged a financial advisor, along with the necessary accountants, lawyers and other experts," Florio said.

He added that the task force had conducted valuation studies and devised optimal offering structures for the conduct of an IPO.

"It would probably not take us long to launch our IPO once the environment becomes conducive to do so," he said.

Quarterly report

In the meantime, the energy department has ordered the two firms to submit starting this month a quarterly report to inform the government of their assessment whether or not it is time to offer shares to the public.

Florio said Caltex Philippines was prepared to report their assessment of the performance and liquidity of the Philippine market as well as that of Petron.

He said Caltex Philippines would also submit an assessment of historical foreign exchange rates and financial data on the company and on the oil refinery industry in Asia.

"(Our report may also have) other economic, social and political factors that we see fit to include," Florio said.

Indicators

Pilipinas Shell's Reyes said encouraging indicators would include:

* A stable peso-dollar exchange rate, which is "at least in synch with regional currencies."

* Renewed investor confidence and active trading in the stock exchanges.

* A depoliticized fuel pricing that would allow oil companies to pass on their costs and make a fair and reasonable profit.

* A healthy gross domestic product growth.

"How Petron, which is now trading below its IPO price, is doing in the stock market would also be an interesting indicator," Reyes added.

He agreed that Pilipinas Shell's IPO would benefit the local capital markets "since it would add a company with a strong name and one of the world's top recognizable brands."

When it does push through with its IPO, according to Reyes, Pilipinas Shell will stick to the minimum 10-percent offering.

"The need to raise equity funding, which is one of the principal reasons for most IPOs, does not exist in the case of Pilipinas Shell," he said.

Reyes added that an IPO of 10 percent was already very sizeable for the target capital markets here and abroad.

"A bigger IPO merely reduces the potential for a very successful offering," he said.

RP fruit growers seek wider access in export markets

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL fruit growers and exporters have urged the government to seek a reduction to 10 percent of the tariffs on their produce in China, Australia and the United States through bilateral negotiations.

Export producers of bananas, pineapples and mangoes have been seeking government support in pushing for greater access to these markets.

Philippine Banana Growers Association president Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said a reduction in the tariff on fruits in major export markets would help revive agriculture as one of the country's major dollar earners.

Agriculture exports now constitute only about 15 percent of the country's total export earnings, as compared to the 49-percent share during the 1970s.

"The bilateral negotiations are vital in the light of the tariff and non-tariff barriers that stop us from entering these markets," said Lorenzo in an interview after a meeting yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Department of Agriculture.

The fruit exporters have identified China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, the United States and Australia as some of the markets that could still be penetrated. However, these countries impose 40 to 100-percent tariff on their agricultural imports. Local exporters want the government to negotiate for the reduction of these tariffs to a uniform level of 10 percent.

Lorenzo said that access to the Australian markets alone would bring in $50 million in earnings from banana exports.

Lapanday Holdings recently tested the Australian markets by exporting Guimaras mangoes.

However, Lorenzo said more product and technology innovations have to be applied to prolong the shelf -life of the mangoes to encourage more Australian buyers and distributors to buy the product.

"Australia has very stringent standards when it comes to fresh produce imports. We have better chances of entering Iran and the Canadian markets, which could be very large markets for our products," Lorenzo added.

Also, the fruit exporters have asked the government to provide the fruit growing sector vapor heat treatment and communal irrigation facilities.

Mounting calls for wage hike worry Japanese businessmen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE JAPANESE Chamber of Commerce warned the Macapagal administration that further increases in the country's minimum wage could push labor costs in the country out of reach of most Japanese firms investing overseas.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who is spearheading government's efforts to ensure that investors already operating in the country would stay put here.

Following his meeting with members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Roxas said Japanese businessmen cited problems involving labor as their main concern in the local business environment.

Roxas said that based on the clamor for a maximum P125 hike in daily wages, labor costs would shoot up to more than $7 a day from $5, which was already one of the highest in the region. Roxas said China's wage rate was less than $1 per day. "They said we would be pricing ourselves out of the market," Roxas said.

Roxas said that although Japanese firms were paying more than the minimum daily wage to its workers, they would be forced to increase their wages further if the minimum wage hike would be raised. Roxas said that most of the Japanese firms warned that they might not afford any wage hike in the future in view of the weak global economy.

Most Japanese firms have stayed put in the country mainly because of the high quality of labor even though a number of multinational corporations have transferred their manufacturing facilities to other Asean countries.

Aside from rising labor costs, Japanese businessmen were also worried about the rising restiveness of labor unions in the country especially after the Edsa II uprising, citing the weeklong work stoppage at Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.

Roxas said the Japanese businessmen also asked the government to address the security problem in the country, the lack of infrastructure, and the undue delays in processing of visa applications and customs.

Roxas said the DTI would hold another meeting with the Japan Chamber of Commerce this month to brief its members on President Macapagal's plans as laid out in her State of the Nation Address.

CANADIAN TRADE MISSION'S OUTREACH

Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette (fourth from right) stands at the base of the Canadian-produced IUSI high grade steel distribution poles in Barangay San Minguel of Samal Island in Davao. The ambassador inspected the Daneco (Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative) project there using the Canadian steel poles. With him were (from left) Mayor of Samail Rogelio Antalan; Santi Maglaya, NEA regional technical manager; Sonny Siytangco, IUSI supplier of the steel poles; Edgardo Savellano, general manager of Daneco; Rey Sevilla, NEA Regional XI director; Canadian Embassy Sr. Trade Commissioner Richard Bale; and Jesus Albacite, Daneco president.

Extelcom earmarks $50M for new technology

By Abigail L. Ho

EXPRESS Telecommunications Inc. admitted that the analog business was no longer viable.

"Our analog business is no longer profitable. We're barely break even," Extelcom legal counsel Fernando Ma. Alberto said in an interview last Monday.

He said that Extelcom already has plans to move to higher technology soon.

"We will be shifting to new technology as soon as the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) issues new frequency," he said.

Extelcom has an outstanding request for 5 megahertz of frequency out of the 30 that the NTC is set to award to cellular phone providers before year-end.

"Five megahertz isn't really enough, but we have to prove ourselves first because we'll be the newest player in the cellular industry," Alberto said.

He said Extelcom has already prepared around $50 million for the initial rollout of its new technology.

"We'll still have our analog though. We'll be using the analog as well as the GSM (global system for mobile communications) platforms for our new services," he added.

Earlier in the year, Extelcom filed a case against Bayan Telecommunications Inc., one of its investors, to prevent it from going into the cellular business.

The case is now with the Supreme Court after Extelcom won its case in the Court of Appeals.

Bayantel's appeal has already been rejected, but there is still a pending NTC appeal.

Bayantel earlier wrote off its P6-billion investment in Extelcom.

"It was but logical to write off that investment because it was no longer earning," Bayantel legal division vice president Antonio Balbin told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

But Extelcom is also looking at other investors to help finance its entry into the digital market.

Stockholders OK Urban Bank rehab

By Elena R. Torrijos

URBAN Bank stockholders yesterday approved the bank's rehabilitation plan featuring a three-way merger with Export and Industry Bank and Urbancorp Investments Inc. that would pave the way for the shuttered bank's reopening sometime this month.

Stockholders also approved a quasi-reorganization of Urban Bank's capital involving the reduction of the publicly-listed bank's par value per share from P100 to P1 per share and the increase of its authorized capital to P7.5 billion, divided into 6-billion common shares and P1.5 billion in preferred shares.

They also approved the delegation to the board of directors the power and authority to amend the bank's by-laws consistent with the planned merger. Under the merger, Urban Bank will be the surviving entity but its name will be changed to Export and Industry Bank.

Last month, the memorandum of agreement governing the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp was finally signed in a ceremony presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The signatories of the MOA were Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president and chief executive officer Norberto Nazareno, Export and Industry Bank chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., EIB president Benjamin Castillo and National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and Creditors Inc.

It sealed the deal calling for the rehabilitation of Urban Bank after the Monetary Board; the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, gave its approval in principle to the proposed rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation plan will allow depositors and creditors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp to withdraw up to P500,000 on its first day of business. Of the balance of deposits, 30 percent will be paid by the end of the first year, another 30 percent on the second year while the remaining 40 percent may be withdrawn by the end of the third year.

Urban Bank will be the first closed bank to be reopened under PDIC receivership.

Elected to the board were the following, mostly EIB directors and/or officers: Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Reynaldo David, Benjamin Castillo, Donald Dee, Alfredo Yao, Paterno Dizon, Roberto Guevara, Hermenegildo Zayco, David Ng Tai Chui, Bobby Cheng Sai Chong, Edna Reyes, Pauline Tan, Jeffrey Yao, Donisio Carpio Jr. and Victor Te.

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"These top-of-the-line motorcycle engine oils exceed the stringent performance requirements of major Japanese and European motorcycle manufacturers" Rey Philip P. Trespalacioreal, Product Category Manager for Motorcycle Oils of Caltex, proudly remarked. "We are sure that the vastly growing number of 4-Stroke motorcycle riders will definitely appreciate the high-performance features and value-added benefits of **Revtex 4T**", Trespalacioreal added.

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SONS OF J. LANUZA, Auctioneer.

MARA PAWNSHOP I, II, III, IV and COMEMBO BR. of Makati City . Auction Sale on Aug. 8, 2001 Wednesday at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30, and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively, March 10 - April 8, 2001.
SONS OF J. LANUZA, Auctioneer

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave. Baclaran P'que M.M. Auction Sale on Aug. 8, 2001, Wednesday at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, March 10 - Aprril 8, 2001.
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Notice is given that the estate of late MARISSA G. GORROSPE was extrajudicially settled by an affidavit of self adjudication w/absolute sale as per Doc.1103 Page23 BookXCIV Series 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Avelino C. Gorrospe, San Fernando, Pampanga
[PDI-August 1,8&15,2001]

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased VIDAL DE VERA ANGELES was settled extrajudicially by his heirs before Notary Public Jose C. Reyes under Doc. No. 229, Page No. 20, Book No. VII, Series of 2000
(PDI-July 18,25 & Aug.1,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Philam Bond Fund Stock Certificate No. 0064 for 18,833 shares under the name of Ma. Virginia B. Salcedo is missing. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
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PNOC reports surge in five-month income

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. said yesterday its net income in the first five months of the year hit P296 million, more than double last year's P142 million.

In a statement, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan attributed the 108-percent surge in PNOC's income to an increase in its cash position due to its receipt of a $45-million loan.

The amount represents the second tranche of a $175-million, three-year syndicated loan for the financing of its exploration subsidiary's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya deep-water, gas-to-power project.

Cunanan said Citibank NA led the consortium of banks that arranged the loan.

He said out of the $45 million, $30 million accounted for the PNOC mother company's reimbursement on its advances to PNOC-Exploration Corp. for the Malampaya project.

Cunanan added that PNOC's cash position fell earlier this year due to its remittance of P276.5 million, or half its cash dividends to the national government.

He also said the P296-million income excluded earnings from PNOC's subsidiaries.

Data from the company showed that PNOC Energy Development Corp. remained the highest performer with a net income of P393 million from January to May.

Petrochemical Development Corp. and PNOC-EC follow at P11.9 million and P3.7 million, respectively.

Regulators trim Maynilad water rate hike by ₱0.52

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System's Regulatory Office said yesterday it will allow Maynilad Water Services Inc. to raise its rates by P4.23 per cubic meter in September, 52 centavos lower than the adjustment that Maynilad was seeking.

In an interview, outgoing MWSS chief regulator Rex Tantiongco said the lower figure reflected changes in the computation of Maynilad's foreign exchange-related losses.

Maynilad has sought a P4.75-per-cubic-meter increase in its rates, citing P2.7 billion in foreign exchange-related losses.

The company had been servicing some $800 million worth of debts it absorbed when it won a $7.5-billion concession with Manila Water Co. Inc. to provide water services in Metro Manila. These were debts incurred by the MWSS.

Maynilad's liabilities have ballooned in recent years because of the peso's steep depreciation against the US dollar because of the 1997-98 Asian currency crisis.

When Maynilad took responsibility for the MWSS' debts in 1997, the peso was trading at 26 to a dollar. It had since dropped to as low as 55, jacking up Maynilad's dollar-denominated debts.

Maynilad estimates it has lost some P2.7 billion in foreign exchange-related debts, but Tantiongco, who has resigned as head of the MWSS-Regulatory Office, discloses that a new computation has pared down the figure to P2.6 billion.

The new computation has taken into account differences in the use of inflation, among many factors, according to Tantiongco.

Tantiongco said the MWSS-Regulatory Office's would have to verify its computation, and that the final figure would have to be approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He told reporters that should the President approve it, the P4.23-per-cubic-meter increase in Maynilad's rates would be implemented gradually starting September.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan said Maynilad was willing to break down the adjustment it was seeking, but he warned that this could lead to a higher increase of P7.48 per cubic meter.

Alunan explained that breaking down the increase into three consecutive quarters "will actually result in an average tariff increase slightly higher than the P4.75 because installments naturally cost more."

He said Maynila would seek a P2-per-cubic-meter increase by Jan. 1 next year and another P3.48 by July next year.

The MWSS and Maynilad signed in May a memorandum of agreement that allowed Maynilad to raise its rates by P4.75 per cubic meter.

The President, however, ordered a review of the adjustment.

Maynilad has stopped paying concession fees the MWSS since March, citing "forces beyond its control" that has made its operation unprofitable.

The company owes the MWSS over P1.212 billion.

Metrobank faces tough 2001 target

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, faced a tough path in achieving market forecasts of over P2 billion in net income this year, analysts said yesterday.

Metrobank posted a net income of P626.81 million for the parent company in the April-June period.

In the first quarter of this year, Metrobank posted a net income of P402.16 million.

Net interest income for the parent was at P2.42 billion and provisions for probable losses were at P206.72 million.

The bank did not give comparable year ago numbers.

Last year, the bank said it posted P535.41 million in net income in the second quarter of 2000.

Metrobank shares closed up P4 at P210 yesterday. Consolidated figures will be announced next week.

The bank reported a net income of P1.504 billion in 2000 and Multex Global Estimates' net profit consensus for 2001 was P2.383 billion.

Most analysts do not forecast quarterly figures for the bank as the bulk of its earnings are booked in the fourth quarter. But many saw risks surfacing in the period due to political uncertainties.

"In the second quarter, you had a number of political events that, in a sense, kept people from their normal second quarter upswing. You had elections to begin with, then of course, you had May 1 preceding that, so from a political sort of standpoint, it was one of the worst months ever," a banking industry analyst who asked not to be named said.

"It didn't help that you had a confluence of external factors as well (such as a US slowdown) which affected sentiment."

A May Day attack by supporters of former leader Joseph Estrada on the presidential palace was followed by the May 14 national elections and the kidnappings of Filipino and American tourists by Muslim rebels in the South.

Metrobank's second-quarter results were likely to be below or at best only slightly better than the first quarter, analysts said. The bank posted net income of P535.41 million in the second quarter of 2000.

Metrobank has said that as of June 22, 2001, its ratio of non-performing loans stood at 16.10 percent and its general provisions for loan and other losses at P3.04 billion and specific provisions at P7.46 billion.

As of end 2000, its ratio of non-performing loans stood at around 15 percent.

"I think overall, banks, in general, remained under pressure in the second quarter. Loans have not been moving and whatever growth there was, I would attribute to a large extent to the peso's depreciation against the US dollar," said Edgar Bancod, research head of BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities.

"Spreads also remain under pressure while non-performing loans continue to move up."

The latest data by the central bank showed commercial bank loans grew 6.2 percent year-on-year as of end-April, but analysts said about 20 percent of the loans are dollar-denominated.

The non-performing loan ratio at end May for the industry also worsened to 16.81 percent from 16.76 percent in April, and the banking analyst saw the ratio rising to around 20 percent by the end of 2001. *Reuters*

SEC supports PSE changes to rules

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is supporting the Philippine Stock Exchange's proposals to amend the Securities Regulation Code's broker-director, broker-dealer and tender-offer rules that have been blamed for the stock market's thin volume.

In a meeting on Friday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista and SEC Associate Commissioner Juanita Cueto assured PSE officials that the regulatory agency would endorse the proposed amendments of the PSE to Congress.

Under the stock exchange's proposals, stockbrokerages will be allowed to trade stocks of listed companies where relatives of their officers hold important positions as long as intent to trade is filed with the exchange within a one-month period and the transaction is fully disclosed.

The broker-dealer rule will be amended to allow brokers to deal in securities as long as the in-house trades would take a backseat to customer's trades and prevent front running.

The PSE has also recommended that the trigger for the current tender-offer rule be increased to 35 percent or a stake representing control.

The stock exchange, however, has been advised to revise its proposed amendment to the tender offer and remove the provision on "control" so that the SEC will not have any discretion to decide what constituted control.

At present, the Securities Regulation Code states that no broker or dealer can deal in or otherwise trade for its own account or the account of its customers' listed securities wherein any stockholder, director or associated person of the broker or dealer and any relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity is, at the same time, a director, officer or holding any position of trust and responsibility of the listed company.

The Securities Regulation Code also provides that it shall be unlawful for any member-broker of an exchange to effect any transaction for its own account, the account of an associated person, or an account with respect to which it or an associated person thereof exercises investment discretion.

It provides certain exemptions, however, such as if the transaction is by a member-broker acting in the capacity of a market maker; reasonably necessary to carry on an odd-lot transactions; to offset a transaction made in error; and, any other of a similar nature as may be defined by the commission.

On tender offers, the Securities Regulation Code requires any group or person who intends to acquire over 30 percent of a publicly held company within a one-year period or a 15-percent stake in a single transaction should make a tender offer to purchase the shares of the remaining shareholders of the publicly listed company at the same price.

PNOC to buy Napocor's power plants

PNOC Energy Development Corp. chair Sergio Apostol said the state-run firm was still keen on buying National Power Corp.'s geothermal assets despite a plan to privatize PNOC-EDC itself.

"We have offered to buy all of Napocor's power plants that are drawing steam from our fields," Apostol said in a press briefing last week.

He said PNOC-EDC made the offer to Napocor president Jesus Alcordo even before the Electricity Industry Reform Act was enacted.

The law provides for the creation of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., which will absorb all of Napocor's disposable assets in view of their privatization.

Apostol said negotiations were stalled since the law's implementing rules would not be ready until the end of the year.

"We will keep our offer to buy whether (the sale would go through) negotiations or a bidding," he said.

PNOC-EDC's geothermal fields in Albay and Sorsogon, Leyte, and Negros that serve Napocor's power plants.

Wireless firm spends ₱80M on network

By Abigail L. Ho

WIRELESS applications service provider Chikka Asia Inc. said yesterday it had spent an initial P80 million to roll out its instant messaging system in the country.

"But that P80 million is only for infrastructure. We've also spent thousands of hours developing that program," Chikka chief executive Dennis Mendiola said in an interview.

Mendiola said 80 percent of the P80 million came from institutional investors, including the Philippine Discovery Fund and listed information technology firm Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.

Chikka is already on its second round of funding.

For its third round, Chikka is looking at raising around $5 million to $10 million within the next six months.

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BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines: medicines and extract, herbal medicine in processed form.

Consumer health care: non-prescriptive medical products and preparations, EENT health care products, feminine hygiene products, oral health products, footcare products, dermatologicals, nutritional and milk products, vitamins and food supplements, multivitamins, cleansing products other than alcohol, bottled water, purified/spring/ mineral/distilled/ionized water.

Cosmetic and beauty products: hypoallergenics, shampoo,cosmetics, chamber/association of cosmetic manufacturers

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Skincare: cleansers, cleansing cream/milk, special cleansers, toners,fresheners, minimizers, peel system, moisturizers, lotions, astringents, skin conditioners.

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Japan spending sags; jobless seen at record

TOKYO—Japanese personal spending sagged for the third straight month and the jobless rate was at a record high in June, data showed on Tuesday, signaling continued weakness in consumption, the lion's share of the economy.

The data provided more evidence of the rocky road ahead for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who won a strong mandate for his reform platform after the ruling coalition's victory in Upper House elections on Sunday.

Spending by Japanese wage earners' households, a key gauge of personal consumption, fell a real 3.3 percent in June from a year earlier to 304,318 yen ($2,432), the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications said.

That was worse than the most bearish private forecast of a fall of 2 percent.

"We need to see July's figures before we can say if consumption has truly worsened but we are worried after June's data," one ministry official said.

The government is closely watching how much the weak corporate sector—industrial output fell for the fourth straight month in June—will affect consumption, which accounts for roughly 60 percent of the economy.

A long-awaited recovery in consumption is desperately needed to put the economy on a sustainable footing, but worries about the future and a lack of political will to take tough decision have caused Japanese to rein in spending and squirrel away some 1,400 trillion yen in savings, mostly in deposits.

The propensity-to-consume index, which measures the percentage of disposable income that households spent in the month, dipped to a seasonally adjusted 68.9 in June from 70.6 in May, the ministry said.

The index fell to 69.5 in the April-June quarter compared with 73.2 in January-March. It was the lowest level since the government began compiling the data on a seasonally adjusted basis in 1975.

The fall in household spending occurred despite a 0.8-percent year-on-year rise in June incomes, which government officials said was due mainly to a rise in summer bonuses.

The higher bonus payments were seen as a result of increased profits at many corporations for the fiscal year, which ended in March after last year's boom in information technology investment, which had since fallen back sharply.

Japan's unemployment rate stood at a record of 4.9 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis, for the second straight month in June, the ministry said.

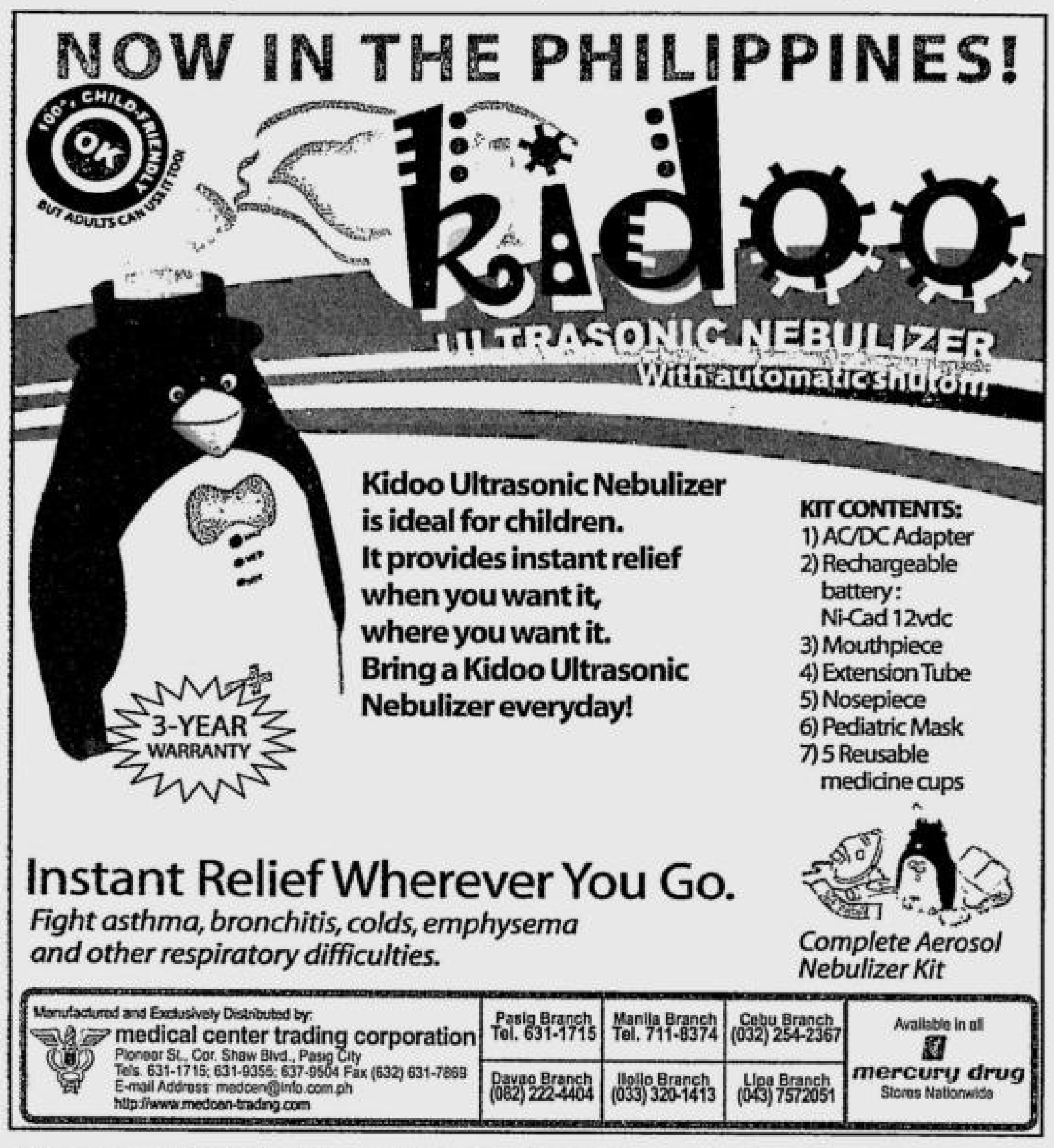
"I think the unemployment rate could go up to 6 percent if the government aggressively pursues its program," said John Richards at Barclays Capital in Tokyo.

"Our own back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the bad-loan selling program will ultimately put a million household workers out of work and some of that is already happening," he said.

Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma said the politically sensitive jobless rate could rise above 5 percent in the near term, given planned reforms that could prompt more corporate bankruptcies.

"The job situation will become more severe," he told a news conference. "We must be vigilant on the situation," he said, adding his ministry would take steps to alleviate the situation.

The trade and labor ministries announced plans on Tuesday to strengthen safety net measures for jobs in regional areas. *Reuters*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WTO checks chances of new talks

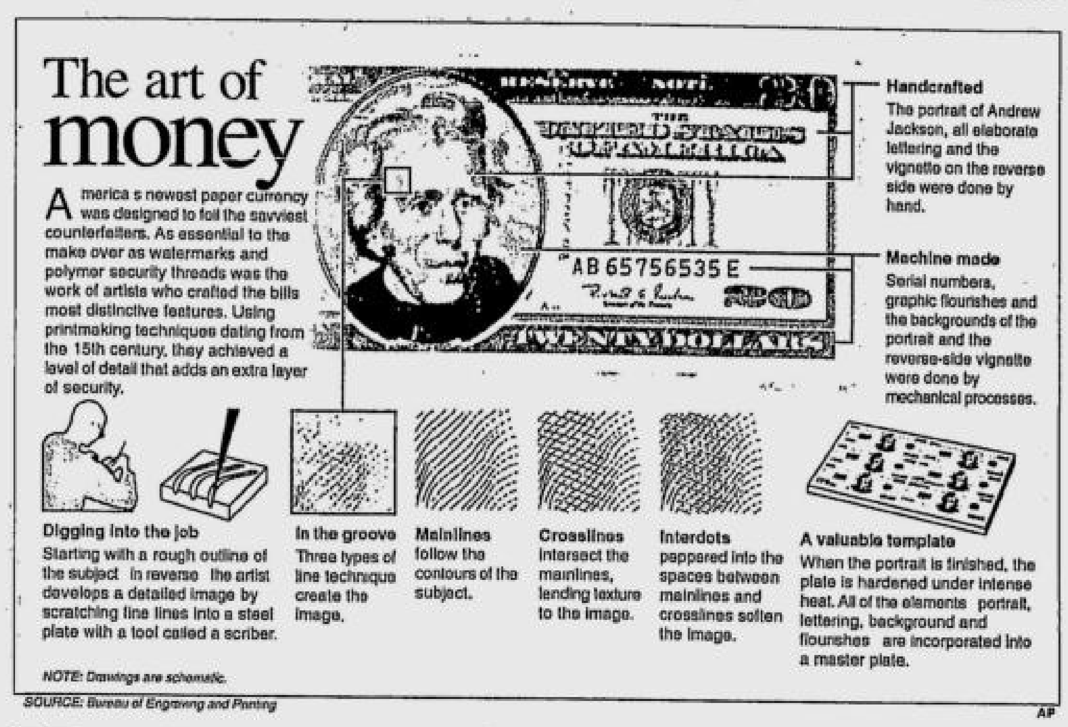
GENEVA—Multilateral trade is threatened unless World Trade Organization members commit to that concept and the principle of international cooperation by September, according to the WTO's outgoing director general, Mike Moore.

"If we return in September with unchanged positions, then I fear the worst," Moore said as WTO delegates began a two-day debate on the chances of launching a new global round of trade talks at the body's ministerial conference in Doha in November.

"The greatest danger is a failure to reach consensus that would call into question the commitment of members to the multilateral system and the principle of international cooperation," he told ambassadors from 142 nations.

"I need to say that the situation is fragile and, without generosity, good manners and good will, the process could implode and become unmanageable," Moore said. *AFP*

The art of money



America s newest paper currency was designed to foil the savviest counterfeiters. As essential to the make over as watermarks and polymer security threads was the work of artists who crafted the bills most distinctive features. Using printmaking techniques dating from the 15th century, they achieved a level of detail that adds an extra layer of security.

Handcrafted
The portrait of Andrew Jackson, all elaborate lettering and the vignette on the reverse side were done by hand.

Machine made
Serial numbers, graphic flourishes and the backgrounds of the portrait and the reverse-side vignette were done by mechanical processes.

Digging into the job
Starting with a rough outline of the subject in reverse the artist develops a detailed image by scratching fine lines into a steel plate with a tool called a scriber.

In the groove
Three types of line technique create the image.

Mainlines
follow the contours of the subject.

Crosslines
intersect the mainlines, lending texture to the image.

Interdots
peppered into the spaces between mainlines and crosslines soften the image.

A valuable template
When the portrait is finished, the plate is hardened under intense heat. All of the elements portrait, lettering, background and flourishes are incorporated into a master plate.

NOTE: Drawings are schematic.

SOURCE: Bureau of Engraving and Printing

AP

Honda revs up 2nd quarter profits

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co., Japan's third-largest automaker, reported record quarterly net profits on Tuesday, spurred by favorable currency rates and strong sales in its home market.

Net profit for the April-June quarter jumped 40 percent to 89.38 billion yen ($714 million) from 63.8 billion a year earlier, surpassing the 80-billion-yen earned in the July-September 1998 quarter.

"This is a very strong set of results," said Christopher Richter, auto analyst at HSBC Securities in Tokyo.

Honda executive vice president Koichi Amemiya said the carmaker had enjoyed strong sales at home and in the United States.

But he said Honda would not be revising the guidance it gave in May, when it forecast record net profit for the business year ending next March of 315 billion yen on sales of 7.15 trillion yen.

"We have gained a little leeway with our first-quarter results, but there are concerns about the US economy and so we want to be cautious about making any decision about our full-year outlook," Amemiya told a news conference.

Pretax profit climbed 33 percent to 135.67 billion yen from 101.77 billion yen, compared with the average forecast of 138 billion yen produced by a Reuters poll of seven analysts. *Reuters*

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Asian car sales to slow, could stall–Autopolis

LONDON—Asian auto markets are set for modest sales declines over the next two years after recent powerful gains, although the possibility of more serious falls cannot be ruled out, according to a report published on Tuesday.

The report, from automotive industry forecaster Autopolis, said the outlook was still reasonably bright for the region, although Asia's economies and auto industry were "on the edge."

Asian auto sales had risen almost 20 percent in 1999 and 2000.

"Our central forecast is still for a comparatively modest fall in economic performance in the next few years, and that this will lead to a small drop in car and commercial vehicle output," the report said.

"But the risks of something more serious have grown since our last report (in April 2001)," Autopolis said.

Japan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines are close to greater difficulty.

"We are concerned about the economic outlook in Japan and South Korea and about both the economic and political future for Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia," the report said.

China was the only country where optimism was justified, the report said.

The report said Asian sales would fall 2.4 percent in 2001 to 11.67 million vehicles and slide another 3.4 percent in 2002. Sales would turn around in 2003 with a 2.3-percent gain.

The biggest worry was South Korea, where sales were expected to fall to 1.38 million in 2001 and to 1.18 million in 2002. Sales in South Korea had spurted to 1.43 million in 2000 from 790,000 in 1998.

According the Autopolis, there are good times ahead in the medium term

"The good news is that once the next few years are over, Asia's auto sales will grow by almost 5 million units in the next decade, adding 10 percent to world demand," Autopolis economist Graeme Maxton said. *Reuters*

Sharp expands LCD production in China

TOKYO—Japanese consumer electronics maker Sharp Corp. said Tuesday that it would start producing liquid crystal display projectors in China to cut export costs and to meet a surge in demand there.

"It is cheaper to produce them in China than to export them from Japan, which is what we are doing at the moment," a company spokesperson said.

"We have not decided exactly when the project will begin. We are aiming for next spring, but it could happen this year," he said.

There is a huge growth in demand for LCD projectors used in personal computers in China and Sharp aims to produce between 30,000 and 40,000 units a year for the market.

"Production will take place at our joint factory in Nanjing, south China," said the spokesperson.

Sharp already has a 70-percent stake in Nanjing Sharp Electronic Co. Ltd., a venture with a local electronics firm in Nanjing, where it makes color televisions and other audio equipment.

Separately, Japanese hi-tech giant Hitachi Ltd. might start producing cellular phone handsets in China through a partnership with a local company, the Japan Industrial Journal reported without citing sources.

Under a new arrangement, the pair would build a joint plant by the end of this year, with target sales of between one and two million handsets a year, it said.

Earlier in July, two major Japanese mobile equipment makers said they might move production to China to sidestep a 100-percent tariff imposed by Beijing as part of a trade dispute between the two countries.

Kyocera Corp. and Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. halted exports to China of mobile phone goods because of a 100-percent tariff hike imposed by Beijing on certain products made in Japan, which meant they were no longer competitive.

In late April, Tokyo slapped emergency tariffs on imports of spring onions, fresh mushrooms and tatami rushes to protect local producers.

China, the top exporter of these products to Japan, was the government's main target.

In retaliation, Beijing last month imposed 100-percent extra tariffs on automobiles, mobile telephones and air conditioners made in Japan. *AFP*

Intel unveils laptop chips

SANTA CLARA, California—Intel Corp. on Monday announced five new computer chips aimed at making laptops faster and more energy efficient.

The microprocessors are based on the company's new 0.13-micron technology, which the chip giant has said will allow the chips to use less electricity and lengthen laptop battery life.

The company also announced the launch of the 830-chipset family, which was also aimed at the mobile PC market.

According to the company, the new chips will let laptops run up to 20 percent faster while using 40 percent less power.

The new line, called Pentium III-M processors, will run at speeds of 866MHz, 933MHz, 1GHz, 1.06GHz and 1.13GHz, the company announced. *AFP*

Big Boy picks Pepsi

DETROIT—After 65 years with Coca-Cola, Big Boy Restaurants announced it's switching to Pepsi.

The restaurant chain known for its boy mascot with a round belly and black pompadour hairstyle announced Monday that each of its 170 hamburger outlets would switch to Pepsi, beginning immediately.

"It wasn't easy. 65 years is a long time," said Tony Michaels, CEO of Big Boy Restaurants. "But the package Pepsi put together allowed us to make the decision. Ultimately, they ended up winning the business because of a great, interesting proposal."

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Though Big Boy is small in the world of American franchise restaurants, "every drop counts" in the bitter battle between the world's soda mammoths, according to John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest magazine in Bedford Hills, New York. "It's a good win for Pepsi but not a devastating defeat for Coke," Sicher said. "Conversely, in the cola wars, every drop that one sells, the other doesn't. They battle everywhere for every case." *AP*

Matsushita posts loss in Q2

TOKYO—Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. reported its first ever quarterly loss on Tuesday after sputtering global demand for high-tech goods took a toll on the world's biggest consumer electronics maker.

Matsushita, known for its Panasonic and National brands, posted a 38.69-billion-yen ($309.2-million) consolidated operating loss in the April-June quarter.

The loss, caused by weaker demand for its core consumer electronics products as well as mobile phones and devices, was at the higher end of analysts' estimates for an operating loss of 20 billion yen to 30 billion yen for the quarter.

It was the electronic giant's first quarterly loss since it started announcing earnings on a quarterly basis in 1971. The numbers are reported under US accounting rules.

On a net basis, Matsushita also fell deep into the red with a 19.37-billion-yen loss in the quarter. *Reuters*

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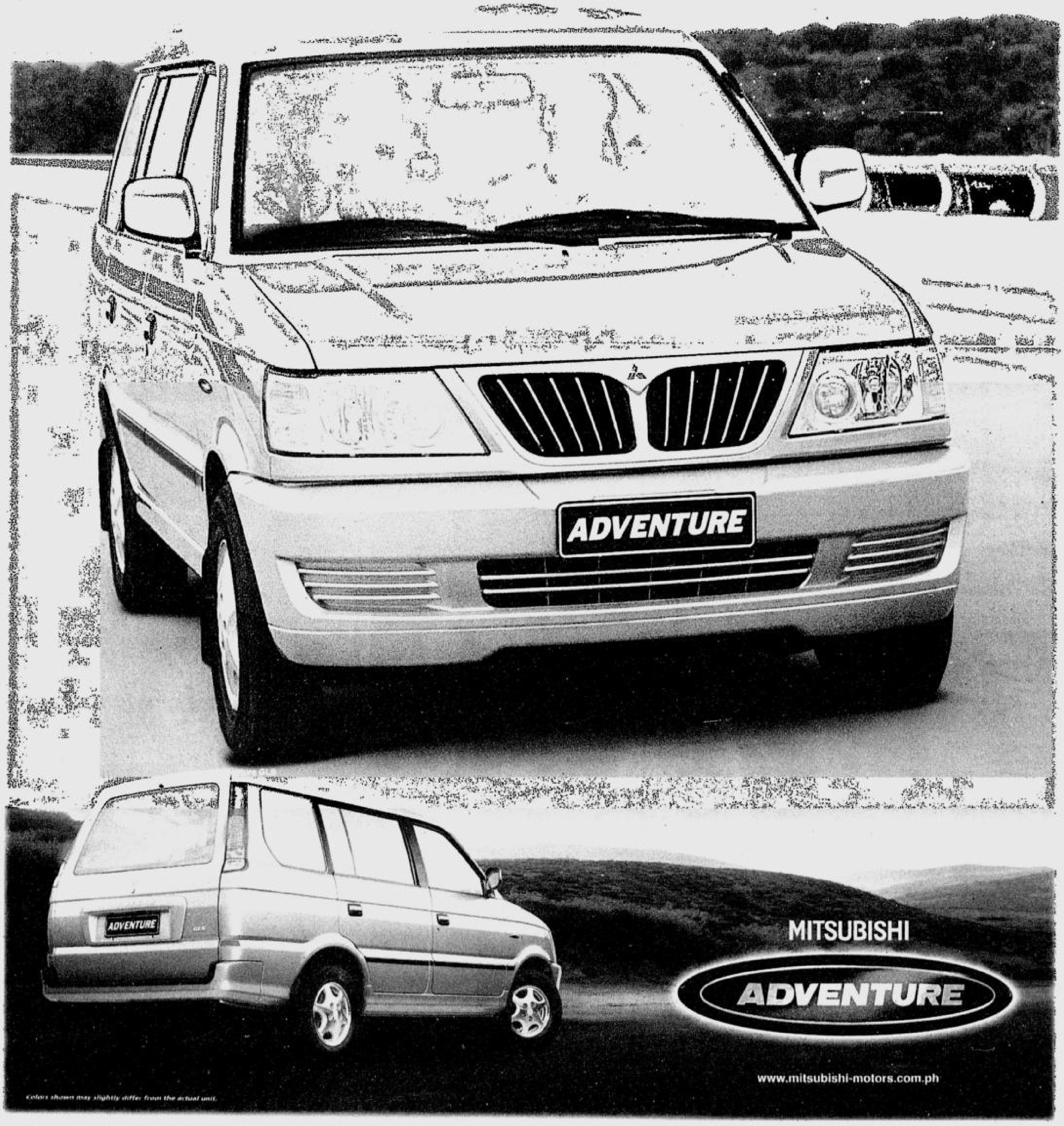
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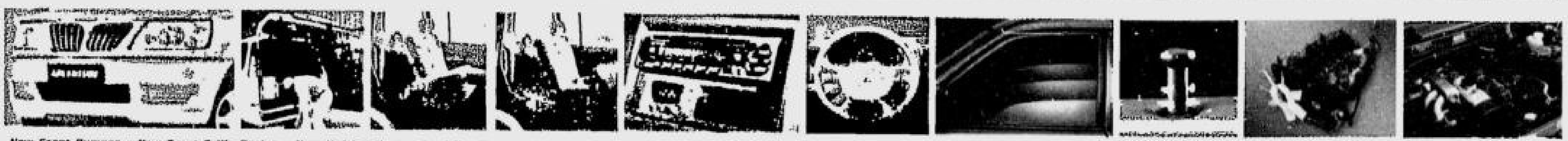

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System Management Center

At the heart of the LTO-IT Project is the System Management Center (SMC), a four-storey building which serves as the main operations center for the project which will house all the critical computer programs and data needed for the day-to-day operations of the LTO.

The data center contains the servers for images such as photos and signatures, database for records, applications that will process the transactions, and network systems and monitoring equipment. The LTO Central Office is connected by a fiber optic backbone link to the SMC Building while its regional, district and extension offices and licensing centers are connected via telephone links of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT). A Business Continuity Center will be built to replicate the functions of the SMC in case of unexpected power outages.

The LTO System Management Center is the main operations center that houses all the applications and networking operations of LTO.

The LTO Makati District Office is the first LTO office to implement the new computerized system – Driver's Licensing System (DLS) and Motor Vehicle Registration System (MVRS).

During the initial implementation of the LTO-IT Project, LTO employees are trained and assisted by the Contractor's IT Support Team

LTO-IT Project Contractors conduct testing for the core applications, which include a mock-up of LTO operations with customers actually lining up and paying (using play money).

Towards a much-improved public service

With the new system in place, front-end applications like motor vehicle registration, drivers licensing, law enforcement and traffic adjudication will be fully automated. Even the back-end services of the LTO such as revenue collection, accounting, human resource management, and payroll will also be automated. The end result is an LTO that has a fully integrated computerized system.

The LTO-IT Project also ushers in less paper transaction processing. Turning paper documents, photos and signatures into electronic images will allow LTO employees to view the images simultaneously with the electronic processing of transactions and store these images in a central database.

Due to the interconnection network, the database is accessible within and among LTO offices nationwide. This assures the sharing of timely and updated information as well as eliminates misfiling and loss of documents. The interconnection also enables the LTO to adopt the "transact anywhere" concept just like what banks are doing with their ATMs.

Securing a driver's license today is no longer time-consuming since printing of the identification card is facilitated with a direct interface to the system. The new computerized system will also help implement the new Road Users Tax for the purpose of raising the necessary revenues for road maintenance and other road infrastructure projects.

Likewise, the new computerized system will support the LTO's MAIDR (Manufacturers, Assemblers, Importers and Dealers Reporting) System for motor vehicles. The MAIDR System governs the issuance of a motor vehicle birth certificate or a certificate of confirmation (CC). The CC will be electronically issued to further enhance the system's security.

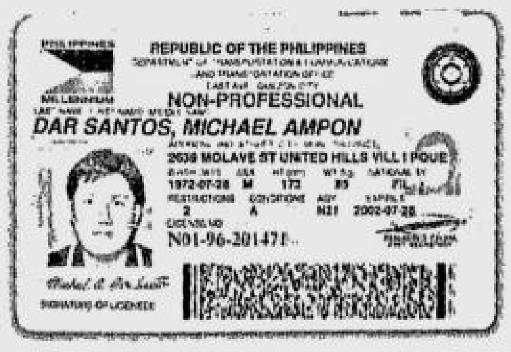
What's more, the LTO's Law Enforcement and Traffic Adjudication System (LETAS) has an on-line interface with the Driver's License System and the Motor Vehicle Registration System. A permanent record of driving violations history will be maintained, including those that have been adjudicated and settled. With this in place, traffic violators will have to settle their cases before their license renewal or motor vehicle registration. The LTO also expects traffic discipline will improve in the coming years to lessen traffic accidents and help save lives.

LTO as a modernized institution

Overall, the LTO-IT Project is dedicated towards the new administration's thrust of good governance. The LTO is proud to report that operational implementation is now on-going for the National Capital Region which is accountable for about 1/3 of the annual nationwide volume of 12 million transactions. The public has openly expressed general satisfaction over the issuance and/or renewal of driver's license in 30 minutes on the average compared to over 90 days in the past. Similarly, registration of motor vehicles now takes less than an hour.

By the third quarter of 2001, the LTO shall have implemented the IT roll-out in selected District Offices nationwide which will bring the LTO automation to cover 80 percent of the total transaction volume.

Needless to say, Filipinos now experience much-improved efficiency and quality public service from the new, computerized LTO.



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Land Transportation Office

MESSAGES

It is my pleasure to extend my warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Land Transportation Office on the inauguration of the LTO-IT Project's System Management Center.

The LTO is a very important institution of the government. As the primary office tasked to regulate motor vehicle registration, licensing of drivers and traffic law enforcement and adjudication, among others, you perform a very vital role in promoting an efficient land transportation service in the country. Of course, your being the fourth largest revenue generating arm of the government makes the LTO one of the strongest pillars of national development.

Thus, I congratulate the officers and employees of the LTO on this momentous occasion. I commend your initiatives, particularly the modernization program anchored on the LTO-IT Project that your present leadership has started to implement. I am confident that with all the enabling powers of Information Technology, our countrymen can look forward to a more efficient, world-class public service from your office.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

This is a milestone for the institution. Since its inception in 1912, the LTO has remained steadfast in its commitment to promote safe, efficient and economic land transportation in the country. This commitment was further strengthened when the agency embarked on a nationwide modernization program under the LTO-IT Project.

The benefits of this ambitious computerization effort, particularly the faster transaction processing of driver's license renewal, are now being enjoyed by the public in key LTO offices nationwide. Soon, all the agency's offices across the country will be linked through a wide area network that will enable the LTO to provide faster and more efficient public service.

I trust that the achievements of the LTO will inspire its officials and employees to strive even harder in the future.

More power to all of you and mabuhay!

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Transportation & Communications

Greetings to the officers and employees of the Land Transportation Office for all of your efforts towards modernization, specifically in the area of information technology. This undertaking underpins LTO's commitment in advancing the government's vision of providing efficient service to the Filipinos.

The inauguration of its System Management Center-the heart and soul of the LTO modernization program-manifests our dedication of bringing forth all stakeholders from both the government and the private sector to forge a common effort of achieving fast and efficient service to the people in the spirit of "participatory democracy." In fact, services of key offices nationwide has been re-engineered which resulted in faster turnaround time for driver's license renewal. Likewise, it is envisioned that when the Information Technology project is completed before the end of the year, the LTO expects to have greatly improved its public service through faster on-line processing of application of driver's license, motor vehicle registration and revenue collection. This computer base scheme enables the agency to reduce, if not totally eliminate, illegal activities from informal facilitators that prey on innocent clients.

The institutionalization of the Information Technology system nationwide will finally pave the way for a world-class LTO with whom our people would surely depend on in terms of highly enhanced transportation service.

Congratulations to the men and women of LTO for a job well done. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

ARTURO T. VALDEZ
Undersecretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

Greetings!

As we celebrate the inauguration of the System Management Center, our commitment to promote and maintain safe, efficient and economic land transportation services in the Philippines has always remained the same.

When I accepted this position, I knew that there was so much to be done in terms of improving the LTO's overall service level like speeding up the registration of motor vehicles, licensing of drivers and conductors, processing of license applications, especially for renewals, eradication of graft and corruption, and hastening the resolution of cases involving traffic, motor vehicle franchising and licensing violations.

With the LTO-IT Project, we can now address these concerns and give new meaning to these two words we live by—Public Service. The inauguration of the System Management Center, which will be the operations hub of this ambitious computerization program—will enable us to improve our services and provide our people with efficient traffic management and safe motoring

With the full computerization of the LTO, we reaffirm our commitment to the Filipino people to provide a much-improved public service that all government agencies should continuously deliver.

GEN. EDGARDO M. ABENINA
Chief
Land Transportation Office

We, at STRADCOM, share with our countrymen today another milestone in our quest to help the Philippine Government improve its public service capabilities and resources by modernizing it's systems and operations.

The LTO-IT Project signals the implementation of the National Information Technology Plan 2000 (NIT 2000), the country's blueprint for IT development. With the LTO setting pace, other government agencies are bringing their operations up to speed in support of NITP 2000 which seeks to improve the delivery of public service, promote transparency, and optimize government's capacity to coordinate development planning and policy formulation and to effectively implement its programs and projects.

Today, as her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurates the System Management Center of the Land Transportation Office, we stand proud for having met the challenge to pioneer the country's first information technology project under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) scheme of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. It was a long arduous process but faith in the LTO-IT Project and the benefits it accrues for the country make it all worthwhile.

Mabuhay ang LTO. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Chairman
Stradcom Corporation

Providing premium public service through Systems Integration

LTO IT PROJECT

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
LTO
Dept. of Transportation & Communications

A customer at the LTO Makati District Office uses the kiosk to gain access to LTO information. The kiosk provides the public with unattended, interactive and touch-screen system using the latest multimedia-based technology.

Recognizing that information technology (IT) is essential to making public service more efficient, the Philippine government issued Executive Order No. 190 in 1994 approving the National Information Technology Plan (NITP) 2000 under the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP). The NITP 2000 calls for the massive diffusion and use of IT in government operations.

To implement the NITP 2000 as part of its continuing commitment to promote and maintain safe, efficient and economic land transportation services in the Philippines, the Land Transportation Office (LTO), together with STRADCOM Corporation, initiated a comprehensive modernization of the LTO's overall operations.

The project, dubbed the LTO-IT Project, aims to: improve the LTO's overall service level; speed up the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of drivers and conductors; expedite the processing of license applications, especially for renewals; remove the presence of fixers and proliferation of fake documents; and hasten the resolution of cases involving traffic, motor vehicle, franchising and licensing violations.

It is the first national information technology (IT) project to be implemented under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) scheme under Section 2 of Republic Act 7718, otherwise known as the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. The BOO scheme allows the government to work together with the private sector in building and operating government projects. Among the LTO-IT Project's primary goals are to develop a data warehouse on the land transportation industry, to customize and automate major service operations for both front and back-end transactions, and interconnect the various LTO offices nationwide through a computerized network. It is expected to reduce illegal activities such as carnapping and falsification of official documents and forms as these goals are realized.

After almost two years of planning and review, the project is now approaching completion with the gradual rehabilitation of all LTO offices nationwide. A nationwide data transmission network will link the LTO Central Office in Quezon City to its 15 regional offices and more than 250 district and extension offices and licensing centers, to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG), as well as the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and other government agencies.

FACILITY TOUR IN THE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT CENTER
LTO Chief Brig. Gen. Edgardo M. Abenina is being briefed on the core applications system inside the Model District Office.

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LEONARDO SALVADOR SARAO

of Medicion II, Imus, Cavite

Passed peacefully on July 30, 2001 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Fidela Caimol Sarao**; his loving children **Dr. Normelito** and **Dra. Norma Maala**; **Romeo** and **Evelyn Bautista**; **Leonardo Jr.** and **Jocelyn Cacha**; **Arch. Edgardo** and **Rowena Veloso** and **Atty. Malu** and **Atty. Rene Conchu**; his grandchildren **Liza**, **Karen**, **Kathy**, **Romeo Jr.** and **Gino Leonardo**; **Jose Luis** and **Edgardo Joaquin**; **Leonardo John** and **Tasha**; his brothers **Rafael** (†), **Ernesto** and **Eduardo**; his sisters **Primitiva** (†), **Segunda**, **Lydia** (†) and **Elenita**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #8 Marinduque Street, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City until 10:00 AM of Friday, August 3, 2001.

He will be transferred at Multi-purpose Hall of Philippine Independent Church, Toclong, Medicion II, Imus, Cavite.

Cremation will be on Saturday, August 4, 2001 after the 12:00 Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory

10th Death Anniversary of

LOURDES MANALON MIÑEQUE

(November 13, 1913 — August 2, 1991)

Husband: **Obdulio Rafol Miñeque** (†)
Children and Grandchildren:

Rafael and **Natalia Ma. Lourdes Morales**
Ginger, AG, Dindin and Jemjem
Placido Jose
Claire, Philip and Patrick
Obdulio Mateo and **Lynn (Brownlee)**
Che and Kyle
Jose Antonio and **Edel (Rimando)**
Jecjec and Jonjon
Simplicio and **Maria Gracia Falqueza**
Ancilla and Tracey
Wivina

With eternal love and gratitude for her gift of life and sacrifice, Masses will be offered for the eternal repose of her soul on August 2, 2001 at 6:00 a.m. in the following churches:

1. **Sacred Heart Parish**, *Kamuning, Quezon City*
2. **Christ the King Mission Seminary**, *Quezon City*
3. **St. Paul the Apostle Church**, *Timog, Quezon City*
4. **Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice**, *U.P. Diliman*
5. **Maria della Strada Church**, *Quezon City*
6. **Lourdes Church**, *Kanlaon, Quezon City*
7. **Our Lady of Loreto Parish**, *Sampaloc, Manila*
8. **Church of San Agustin**, *Romblon*
9. **St. Rose of Lima Church**, *Toronto, Canada*

The readers are requested to join her family in their prayers.

CAPT. TIMOTEO D. COMINES

Of Mabungtot/Langiden, Abra

Former Provincial Board Member, Abra
Former Town Mayor, Langiden, Abra
Former President of the Cotton Growers Association

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of our Lord on July 25, 2001 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **Estrella**; children and in-laws **Thel** and **Caloy**, **Junior** and **Linda**, **Cesar** and **Vicky**, **Linda** and **Bong**, **Beth** and **Albert**, **Bubot** and **Yoly**, **Zaldy** and **Levy**, **Malou** and **Robert**, **Cora** and **Manny**, **Carol** and **Alex**, **Tes** and **Dino**, **Estella** and **Keiko** and **Mono**; sister **Ellit**; and brother-in-law **Banganan**; grandchildren, relatives and friends mourn his passing.

His body lies in state at his residence at 61 Road I, Project 6, Quezon City.

Necrological services is scheduled on August 2, at 7:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 32 Road 2, Project 6, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio at 11:30 AM.

"Absence from the Body, Present with the Lord."
II Corinthian 5:8

ENRIQUE R. CARLOS

April 24, 1921 — July 28, 2001; 80 years old

His bereaved wife and children, grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 2nd of August, 3:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

SOCORRO MANGUIAT MEDALLA

of Lipa City, Batangas

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 30, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her loving children **Claro** and **Baby**, **Tarsi** and **Ibet**, **Philip** and **Pinky**, **Ruby** and **Tom**, **Linda** and **Bing**, **Chit** and **Ronel**; grandchildren **Maya**, **Albert**, **Tina**, **Angela**, **Ia**, **Cecille**, **Luwi**, **Ted**, **Gim** and **Julian**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Eternal Gardens, Lipa City on Sunday, August 5, 2001. (Exact time to be announced later).

I am
the
way,
the
truth
and
the
life.
No
one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

DAMIANA S. ATIENZA

of Lt. Col. Atienza Street, Batangas City,
Batangas, Philippines

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 30, 2001 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Esteben Q. Atienza** (†); children **Dominador (Ding)** and **Girlie Conti**, **Manuel Luis (Noli)** and **Leah Mayo**, **Danilo (Danny)** (†) and **Eve Domingo**, **Lorna** and **Larry Polumbarit**; grandchildren and relatives.

Her remains lie in state at the Mortuary of the Basilica of the Immaculada Concepcion, Batangas City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 2, 2001 after the 1:00 PM Mass.

Masses and spiritual prayers will be appreciated.

DRA. CRISTINA ORLANDA LOPEZ

of Mandaluyong City and Paombong, Bulacan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on Thursday, July 26, 2001.

His beloved husband **Julio C. Lopez**; children **Juliet** and **Johnny Bongga**, **Vic** and **Joey Nuguid**, **Boying**, **Ying** and **Lita**, **Susan**, and **Bob**; brother **Lorenzo**; sisters **Dolly Antonio** and **Sollie Gualberto**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Lopez Residence, Bangkal, Sto. Rosario, Paombong Bulacan. Interment will be on Thursday, August 2, 2001 after the 2 p.m. Mass at Santiago Apostol Church.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DOÑA JUANA OÑATE VDA. DE BATALLONES

(08 February 1911 – 01 August 2000)

29th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DON ONOFRE E. BATALLONES, SR.

(18 December 1910 – 09 July 1972)

of 530 Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna

Their children and grandchildren **Fiscal Loreto Masa**, **Maricel**, **Alvin**, **Anthony Loreso** & **Baby Nicole**, **Michael**, **Marvin** & **Apple**; **Monico** & **Celerina Daluraya**, **Robert** & **Jocelyn**, **Randy** & **Sheila** & **Baby Boy**; **Onofre Jr.** & **Cenem Batallones**, **Lemuel Joy**, **Rowena** & **Baby Louisse**, **Liezle Ann** & **Lauren**; **Harry** & **Nenita Retizos**, **Happy** & **Peachy**; **Jaime** & **Delia Batallones**, **Joan**, **Joy**, & **Jaime Onofre**; and other relatives and friends request pious readers to remember **ONOFRE, SR.** and **JUANA** in their prayers.

Masses will be offered on August 01, 2001 at the following:

St. Anthony de Padua Chapel, Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	8:00 a.m.
St. Policarp Parish Church, Poblacion, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
St. Claire Monastery, Poblacion, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
St. Francis de Asisi Parish Church, Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church, Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna	5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Bigaa, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
St. Rose of Lima Parish Church, Poblacion, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter Parish Church, Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	6:00 a.m.
San Antonio de Padua Parish Church, Los Baños, Laguna	6:00 a.m.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

The family of

MARY BARBA UYTIEPO

who died on August 1, 1992

wishes to thank their loved ones, priests, nuns, friends, co-workers and all those who shared their grief and lightened it, upheld them in their sorrow, making it bearable, whose generous love gave unending hope for her final resurrection in God.

Col. FELIBERTO B. CAVOSORA (Ret.)

of Babatngon, Leyte
Philippine Military Academy Class 1952

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 30, 2001 at the age of 72.

His wife **AIDA**; children **RICHARD**, **AURORA** and **MATTHEW DALY**, **AMELIA** and **MARIE**; brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mortuary behind St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

JEAN AGNES P. HERNANDO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 30, 2001 at the age of 39.

Her parents **Francisco** and **Juanita**, brothers and sisters **Iñing**, **Marita**, **Benny** and **Sally**, **Ree**, **Francis** and **Marge**, niece **Monica**, nephew **Miguel** and daughter **ANGELICA** request relatives, friends and pious readers to say a little prayer for **Jing-Jing**.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel, New Manila.
Interment will be on Thursday, August 2, 2001
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO BID NO. NE II-DOE-EF-2001-001

The Department of Energy pursuant to Department Circular No. 95-11-009 under Energy Regulations No. 1-94 implementing Section 5 (i) of Republic Act No. 7638, as amended and its attendant rules and procedures, has allocated from its Electrification Fund (EF) an amount to be made available to Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) for the electrification projects in the province of Nueva Ecija as per Notice to Proceed No. EF 2001-486 dated February 13, 2001.

Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines:

PROJECT PROPOSAL	KM OF LINE			
	2-Phase	1-Phase	Underbuilt	Open Secondary
1. Brgy. Capintalan, Carranglan		2.210	2.210	0.390
2. Brgy. Putlan, Carranglan	6.910		6.910	0.700
3. Brgy. Piut, Carranglan	6.450		5.550	0.420
4. Brgy. Mayamot I, Talugtug		3.950	0.280	1.050
5. Brgy. Mayamot II, Talugtug		4.020	1.030	0.280
6. Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Talugtug		3.530	0.650	0.420
7. Brgy. Maasin, Talugtug		1.200	0.580	1.260
8. Brgy. Villa Rosario, Talugtug		3.020	1.540	0.560
9. Brgy. Alula, Talugtug	3.360	0.210	1.540	1.190
10. Brgy. Buted, Talugtug		3.390	2.240	0.700
11. Brgy. Saguing, Talugtug				0.280
12. Brgy. Sampaloc, Talugtug		1.710	0.700	0.490
13. Brgy. Macapabellag, Guimba		1.330	0.320	0.350
14. Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Guimba		4.980	3.940	0.700
TOTAL	16.720	29.550	27.470	8.790

Bidders are required to bid for the whole package only.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting August 6, 2001, by eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the PBAC, NEECO II, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Tel. No. (044) 411-1007. Pre-bid Conference will be held on August 24, 2001 at 9:00 AM at NEECO II Board Room also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies will be received by the PBAC at Village Inn, Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City, at exactly 10:00 AM, August 31, 2001 at which time and place said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidder's representative who choose to attend.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to **TWO AND A HALF PERCENT (2.5%)** of the Bid Price.

NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

ENGR. JUN S. CAPULONG
PBAC, Chairman
NEECO II

(PDI – Aug. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

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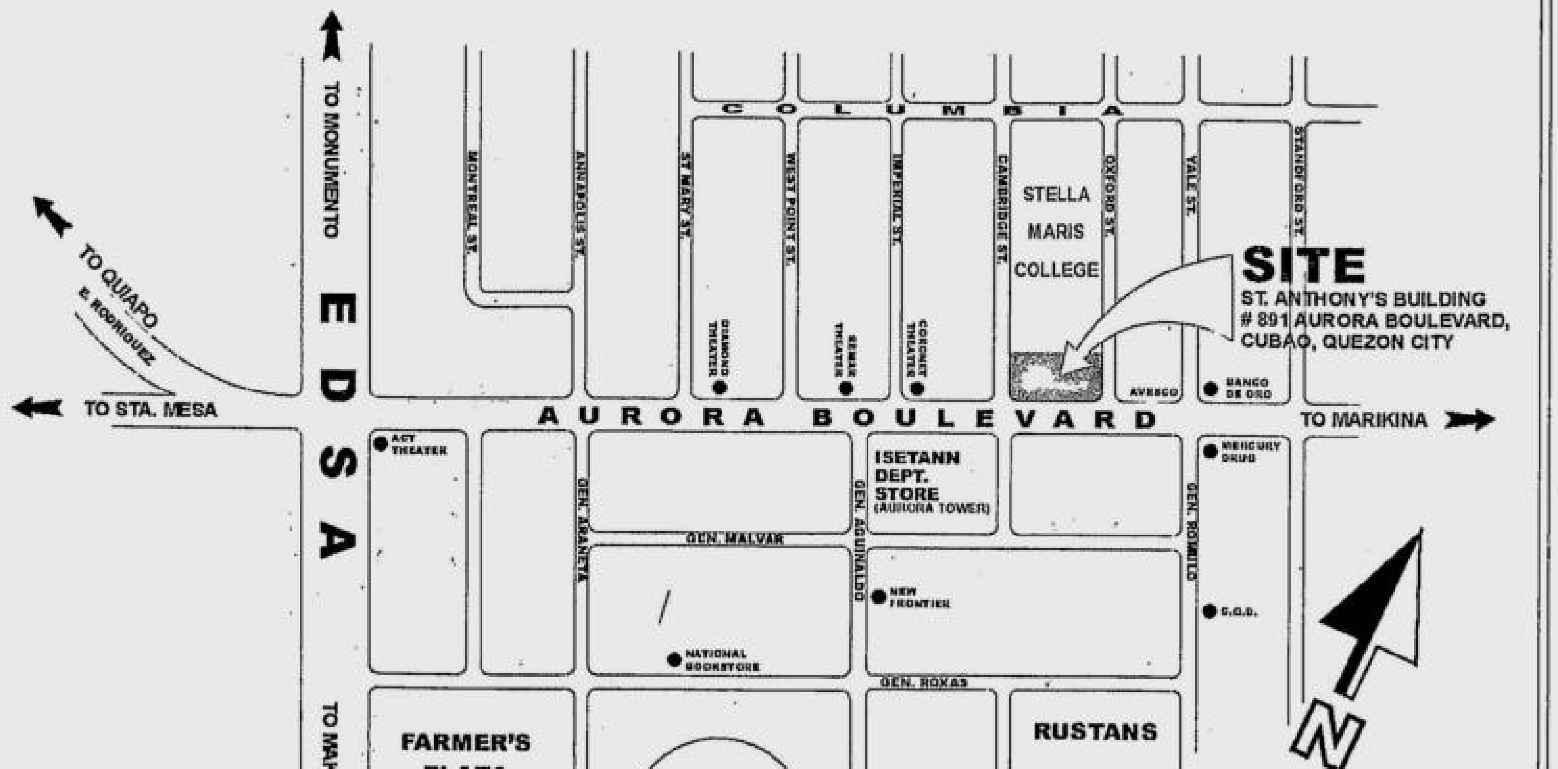

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Caesar's wife

Q. Who is Caesar's wife, and why must she be above suspicion?

A. The Caesar referred to is Julius Caesar (100-44 BC), the great Roman general and statesman, and the wife in question is Pompeia (actually, his second wife; he remarried after his first wife, Cornelia, died). Pompeia was rumored to be having an affair with Publius Clodius, a profligate young noble. At Clodius' trial, Caesar announced that he was divorcing Pompeia, but declared he knew nothing of the details of the supposed affair.

Asked then for the reason behind his decision, Caesar replied, according to the Roman historian Suetonius, "My family should be free not only from guilt but even from suspicion," or, according to the Greek writer Plutarch, "Because I thought that my wife should not even come under suspicion."

Hence the modern expression that, "like Caesar's wife," a person in high office must act in such a way that no suspicion can fall on him or her.

For the Record. The wedding cake was originated by the Romans in the 1st century B.C. It was not always eaten by the bride; in those times it was actually thrown at her as a symbol of fertility and an abundance of offspring. The practice continued until the early Middle Ages, when such waste became incompatible with harsh economic realities. Not wanting to abandon the fun of pelting the bride, guests decided to shower the bride with grains of rice or wheat, a tradition that's still much alive today.

Past Forward. This day in 1944: Philippine President Manuel L. Quezon died of tuberculosis in Saranac Lake, New York, less than three weeks before his 66th birthday.

WORD WATCH

Pulmon : from the Spanish *pulmon*, which, in turn, derives from the Latin *pulmonis*, 'a lung.'

PDI – Aug. 1, 2001

'I can't adjust to my new boss'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM a 21-year-old information officer in a private agency. It's my first job and I've been here for almost a year now. Lately, I seem to be losing passion in my work when my immediate superior was transferred to another department. He was the one who got and mentored me. My new boss seems okay. However, he seems to be giving me the "cold-shoulder" treatment. He also has this habit of blaming people and passing on responsibility when things go wrong. I don't know if I'm being too sensitive but I'm thinking of resigning and finding another job.

Ms Troubled First Timer

I can empathize with your situation. I know the inspiring feeling of working for a boss who acts as your mentor, one who knows how to bring out the best in you. But we know that life is made of passages. Good bosses come and then, go. But at this time, the past is past and can no longer come back. What is important is the present moment, when you have to work with a new boss.

I get the impression that the job is something you really enjoy. I suggest you give the new situation and the new boss a chance. Give the job another year. In my experience, the first year in any job is for learning, when your learning curve rises. The second year is for contributing and innovating on the job.

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

On the practical side, your future employers might wonder how come you are moving after a year. Employers hesitate to take in people who move quickly from one job to the other. They tend to see them as restless, likely to use their company as training ground but with little or nothing to contribute. They may also surmise that the person may have weak interpersonal or team skills.

The core of the problem is adjusting to your new boss. Try the following techniques.

First of all, put yourself in his shoes. What are your unit's priorities and concerns? The challenge for a boss in a new position is proving himself. Seek out those areas where you can contribute to help with some of his burdens. Be resilient. Adopt a proactive attitude by volunteering to do some tasks without being asked.

Second, be assertive. Set an appointment with your boss. Your purpose is to clarify his expectations of you and your job. Tell him how much you enjoy your work. Express openly your desire to do a good job. State that you would appreciate his helping you determine your job objectives and the standards by which he will judge your performance.

Third, establish rapport and open communication lines with your boss, if possible, on both personal and professional levels. When he criticizes your work, don't be defensive. Listen intently. Always choose to be professional in your reaction to negative feedback.

Fourth, develop specific action plans to improve your relationship with your boss. Ask yourself, "What does my boss think and feel about me and my work?" Then, visualize how you want him thinking and feeling about you and your work.

Fifth, try to study the communications style of your boss. Try flexing to his style. You can consider his communication style and flex your own behaviors and style to relate better with him.

Finally, on the issue of passion and commitment on the job, reflect on what values on work you hold within that should drive you. Our happiness cannot depend solely on what other people think or say. This situation is a test of your emotional intelligence or how well will you be able to take on stress and still remain whole and integrated.

Use the year to hone and perfect your skills. Make sure you fully contribute. You owe it to yourself to develop your God given talents. Take care and God bless.

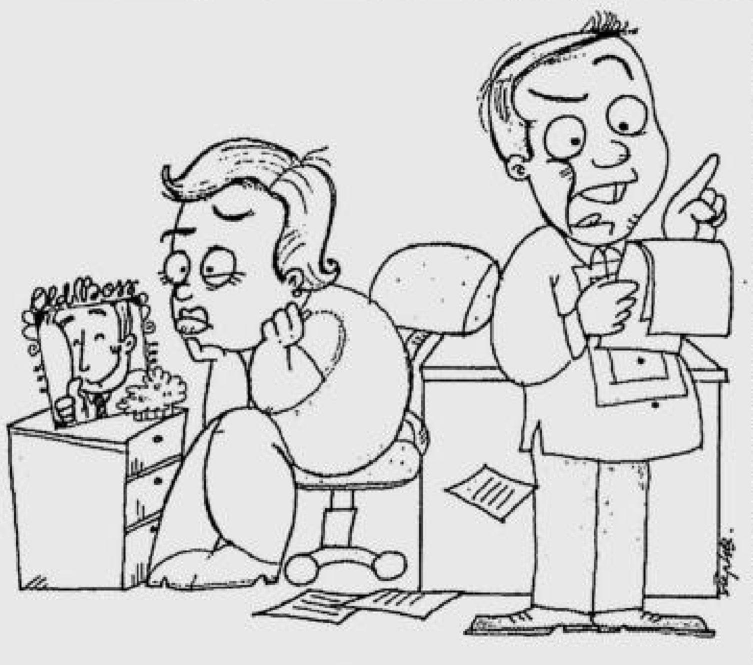

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

(Ms Puangco will be conducting the People at Work Live! Seminar on "Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times" on Aug. 30, 2001, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club. Call 897-8808 local 554 for more information. Send feedback through email to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 8922902.)*

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

Create time

WE have dealt with common time wasters such as cluttered surroundings, disorganization and procrastination in our previous columns. To continue our Workshop on Personal Time Management to Enjoy the Journey Towards Achieving Personal Life Plans, today, you shall do something about those seemingly little interruptions that lead to big delays in whatever you are doing.

Look back to your Time Log, which you prepared previously. You will notice that one of these time wasters is unexpected visitors.

A typical situation is this: you are concentrating on a report that you need to submit in two days time, a final deadline. You have to submit the report or face the consequences. You have procrastinated enough and the boss is losing his patience.

"Good morning!" thunders your friend as he settles down in the chair in front of your desk. "Do you know that the Side A band is playing tomorrow at Dish at the Rockwell Center? I really admire Side A. Their music is now enjoyed by two generations. I remember meeting Joey G. some 10 years ago in SM Centerpoint..." Then, he goes on to narrate how he got his son an autograph from Joey.

You are too polite to dismiss your friend. Meanwhile, your work deadline is approaching.

Limiting the time of your drop-in visitors requires basic courtesy and creative judgement. Here are some tips to keep your boss, subordinates, friends and colleagues from butting into your office during your most busy hours.

One, when you have to discuss things with anybody, volunteer to go to their office or to meet in the conference room. Or talk to them in the hallway, reception area, comfort room, or anywhere there is constant people traffic. This way, you are able to control the time for the discussion.

Two, when someone comes into your room to visit, stand up. When you are standing, your visitor will have no choice but to remain standing. Don't ask the visitor to sit. This will surely limit their length of stay in your work area. At the opportune time, signal the end of your conversation by walking towards the door or exit.

Three, when an unexpected visitor comes, immediately ask about the purpose of the visit. If it is something that could be discussed in a short time, continue your meeting but set the time. If the discussion will require a longer time, then set a meeting with your caller at the nearest future time when both of you are available.

Four, rearrange your desk so that your back will be towards the door or the walkway or the other workers in your office.

Five, put a big clock in the most conspicuous place in your office so that anybody talking to you could see the time easily and take the cue.

Six, remove any conversation piece from your desk. Again, they invite small talk. Small talk takes up lots of time but leads to nowhere.

Seven, close your door if you have one. This will send a very loud signal that you don't want to be disturbed. Give your secretary a list of names that you are willing to talk with at this time. Tell your secretary that, other than the names in your list, you will not receive any visitor or telephone calls for one hour. Instruct her to take messages for you.

If you don't have your own room, post a notice on top of your desk or outside your cubicle. "Beating deadline. Please come back at 12 noon." Or you could ask to use the conference room or any vacant room in your office. Then, close the door.

Eight, don't plan on a full day. Give yourself some "breathing" time. There will always be interruptions at work. Most of them are necessary, albeit unplanned. The important thing is to manage the time you spend for these unplanned activities by planning for them. They will come. Just remember what you learned in scouting and always be prepared.

Nine, part of your planning is to attach a 15-minute "Personal Updates" to your regular meetings with your subordinates or boss to talk about sundry things and topics. If there are unfinished business, set a meeting time for another discussion. Don't leave the meeting hanging. That will spark continuing unplanned meetings.

Ten, curb your tendency to visit another person in his office unannounced and unnecessarily. Do as you want them to do unto you. Make an appointment before you drop by anybody's work area. Prepare for your discussion before you start one.

If any of these suggestions don't work, it is time for you to talk to your boss, subordinates or fellow workers about their constant interruptions and how these are affecting you and your work. You could be polite, honest and brief at the same time.

(For those who missed the jam-packed People at Work Live! Seminar on "Assertiveness in Communication" conducted by Ms Aquino, attend the second run on Aug. 28, 2001, Tuesday, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club. For inquiries, call 897-8808 local 554. Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

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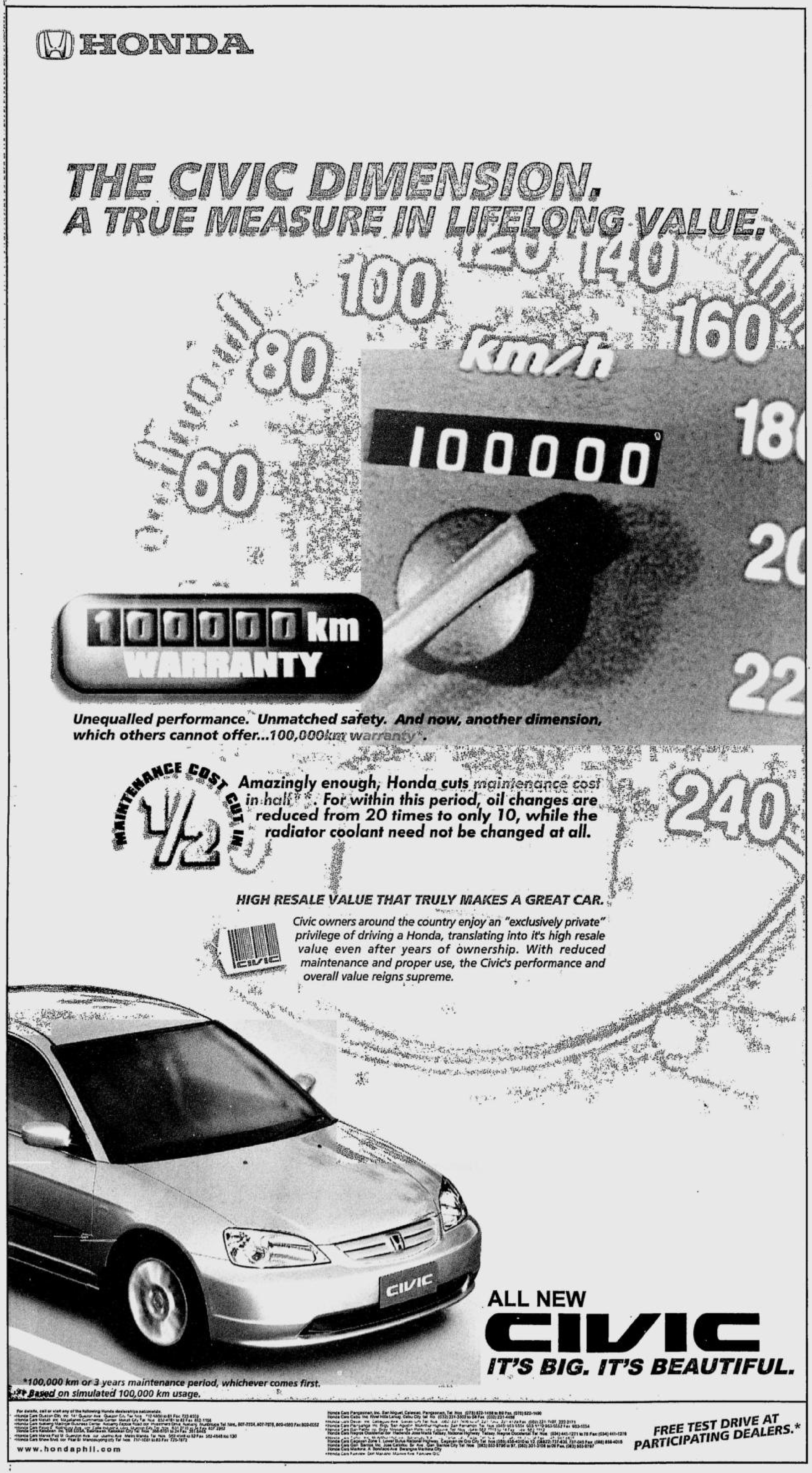
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PEOPLE at WORK

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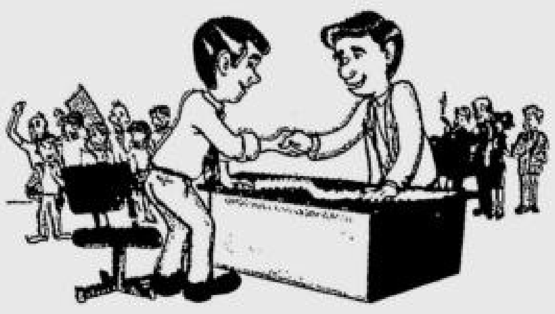
Try win-win negotiations



BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

HAVE you ever been involved in or observed a collective bargaining negotiation between employers and employees? Did the negotiation result in a deadlock or impasse? Didn't you wish you had reached a win-win solution?

Most negotiators dream of getting a win-win solution. And dreams can come true when parties are genuinely interested in finding mutually acceptable solutions to their problems.

The following suggestions can increase the chances of reaching a win-win agreement. Whether or not you are in management or with labor in a unionized or non-unionized environment, these tips will prove helpful to you.

1. Don't be greedy.

Greed can get you what you want, but it can rob you of what you already have. Greed is never satisfied and won't give the greedy inner peace.

If you are in management and can afford a reasonable increase in pay and benefits, don't withhold it. Share with your employees the fruits of their labor.

If you are negotiating for the employees, ask only what is reasonable—commensurate with the value that employees are giving to the company and within the capacity of the employer to pay. Highlight what you are giving in return, not what you need because of the increasing cost of living.

2. Don't be too legalistic.

Between what is legal and what is right, choose what is right. Negotiation is a business matter, not a legal matter. Maybe, you still have to draw up the long form with "Whereas" and "Wherefore," but the agreement must not be written with so much legalese and gobbledygook that ordinary employees can't understand it.

The resulting agreement must be a living covenant between partners aimed at enhancing their relationship for their mutual benefit. It must not be a document that one will use against the other at the slightest provocation.

3. Don't put one over the other.

Never negotiate in bad faith. Proposals must not put one party in jeopardy or at a disadvantage. Never ask the other party to give up rights or prerogatives. Maintain a high degree of mutual trust and respect.

Never use dirty tactics on the other party. This will lead to antagonism and an unhealthy negotiating environment. Be careful with your language. Maintain a wholesome, friendly and collaborative attitude. When proposing something that seems unacceptable at face value, do it in a manner that does not offend the other party.

4. Don't sweat the unimportant.

It is all right and customary to tackle the less critical issues first before discussing the pay increase. But do not belabor the issues that, in the end, will not matter most.

As much as possible, start with issues where you can reach easy agreements. Dispose of issues that get in the way of the major issues. This will lessen the load on both parties. That is not to mean that non-wage issues should not be discussed at all. Let the other party explain its proposals in full. But, let's not kid ourselves—you know your jugular issues.

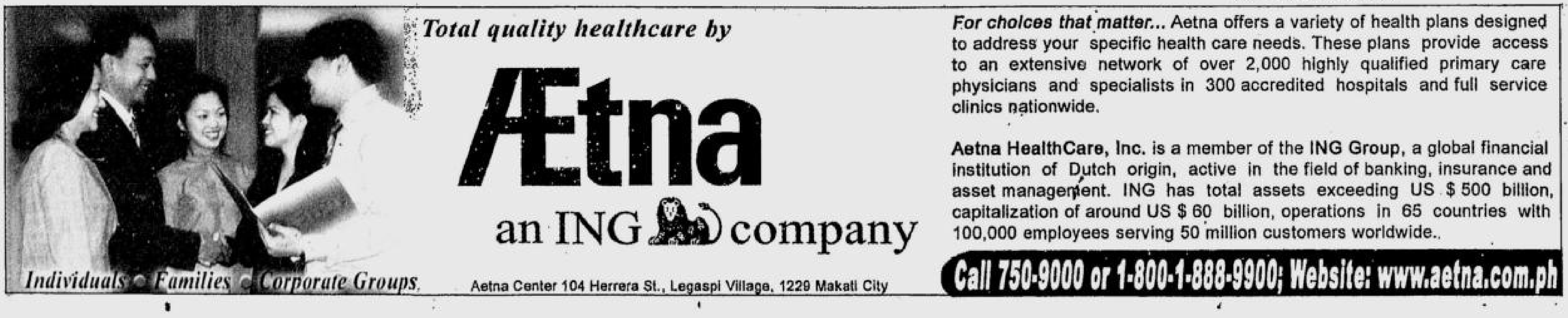
5. Don't be inflexible.

Management negotiators are admonished to avoid a "take-it-or-leave-it" stance. Likewise, never say, "It is a management prerogative and therefore non-negotiable."

Negotiators for employees must also go to the negotiation table with an open mind. Do not expect management to agree to your initial demand for a pay increase.

The essence of negotiation is bargaining, finding a common ground, starting from diverse positions, adapting to the other party—never forcing one to agree with the other.

(The second part of this article will be continued next week. To learn more about negotiating skills, attend the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on "Negotiating Your Way to Success" to be conducted by Mr. Ernie Cecilia on Aug. 29, 2001 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club. Call 897-8808 local 554 for details. Send feedback through e-mail to erniec@edsamail.com.ph.*)*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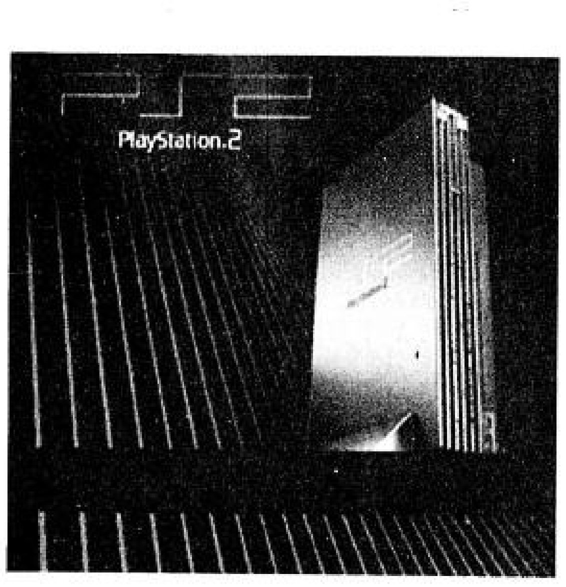

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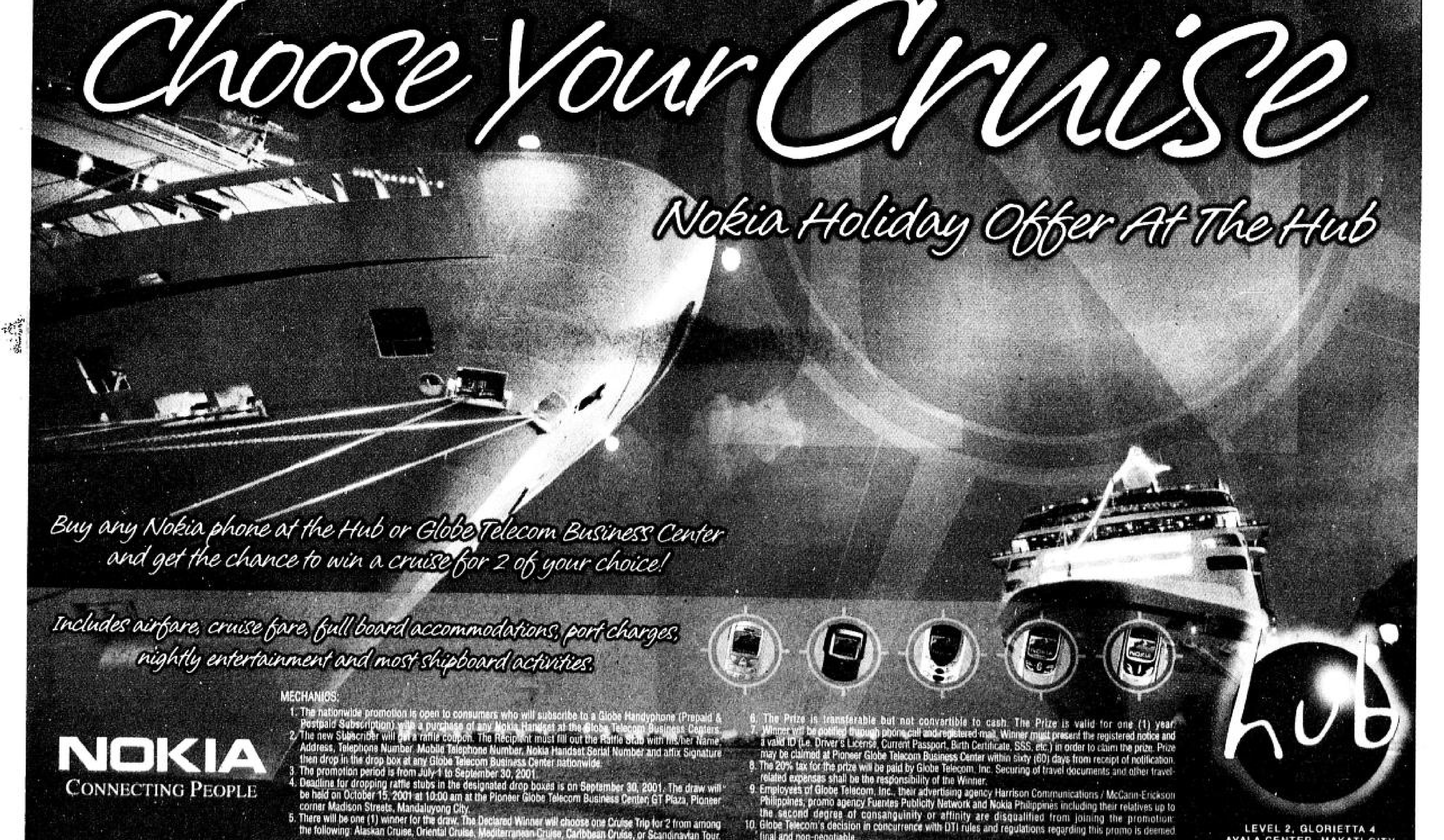

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3. The promotion period is from July 1 to September 30, 2001.
4. Deadline for dropping raffle stubs in the designated drop boxes is on September 30, 2001. The draw will be held on October 15, 2001 at 10:00 am at the Pioneer Globe Telecom Business Center, GT Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City.
5. There will be one (1) winner for the draw. The Declared Winner will choose one Cruise Trip for 2 from among the following: Alaskan Cruise, Oriental Cruise, Mediterranean Cruise, Caribbean Cruise, or Scandinavian Tour.
6. The Prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. The Prize is valid for one (1) year.
7. Winner will be notified through phone call and registered mail. Winner must present the registered notice and a valid ID (i.e. Driver's License, Current Passport, Birth Certificate, SSS, etc.) in order to claim the prize. Prize may be claimed at Pioneer Globe Telecom Business Center within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification.
8. The 20% tax for the prize will be paid by Globe Telecom, Inc. Securing of travel documents and other travel-related expenses shall be the responsibility of the Winner.
9. Employees of Globe Telecom, Inc., their advertising agency Harrison Communications / McCann-Erickson Philippines, promo agency Fuentes Publicity Network and Nokia Philippines including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
10. Globe Telecom's decision in concurrence with DTI rules and regulations regarding this promo is deemed final and non-negotiable.

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Promo period: July 1 to September 30, 2001. See posters for details.

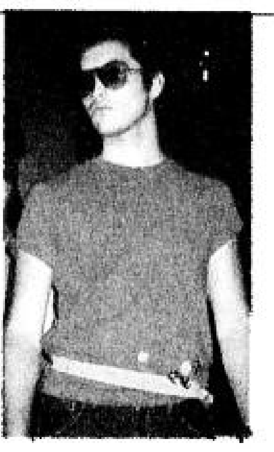
LEVEL 2, GLORIETTA 4
AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0905, Series of 2001

PRETTY IN PRINTS. All dressed up in floral skirts and colored tops by Human

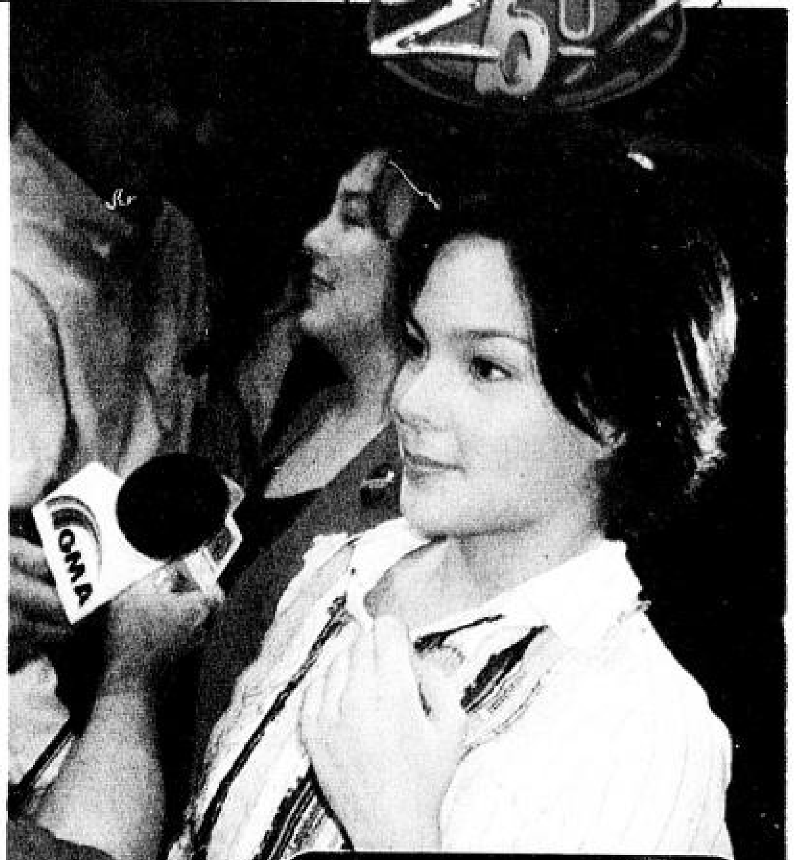
"DRAW your own Human," says Chalk's Romina Urra and Jenni Eperson.

MULTILAYERED spunk on Human male



COLIN Whitfield goes Grease Lightning.

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME. Joyce Jimenez, Mar G Ocampo and Agot Isidro-Sandejas PHOTOS BY TIM YAP



INTERVIEW WITH A HUMAN. KC faces the press with mega mom Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan in the background.

KC AND THE SUNSHINE. Fashion director Ariel Lozada, KC Concepcion and Ben Chan at the postparty

"Keep your hands in one place
Taste the fears
See the tears
You dwell in a position without any cares
Don't lay your hands on me
They carry pieces of you
I'm suffocated
Should I be put through it?
A theft of breath"

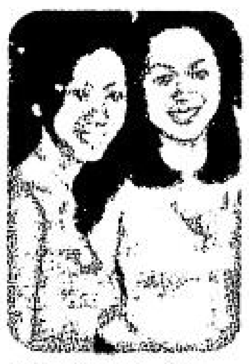
—KC Concepcion

KC's Human nature

Tim Yap

EYE CANDY. Mia Fausto and Ria Francisco

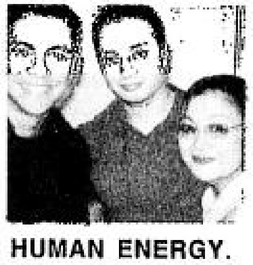
KIN COUPLING. Ciara and Lala Sotto



KC CHUMS. Ina Jacinto and Cara Sarmiento

CLAUDINE Sia and Neil Lucente, responsible for KC's style shots.

KC'S pals Eloise Alba, Bea Locsin and Marga Cacho



HUMAN ENERGY. Gary and Angeli Valenciano with Paul Cavett (center, a.k.a. the brother of Donita Rose)

FABULOUS HUMAN. Tessa Prieto-Valdes

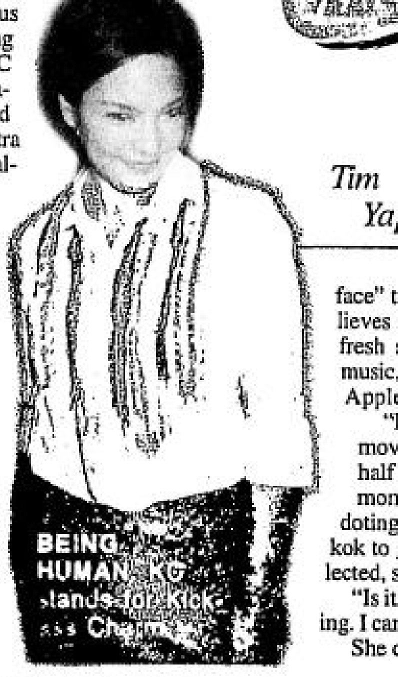
***PIPOL* POWER.** Ces Drilon in black and white chic

GIFT GATE godmother Virgle Ramos

GOING through a sample of KC Concepcion's poetry gives one a mixed sense of fascination and mystery, with interesting somber and sullen moments in stark contrast to the positive persona she radiates. Through the years we have all witnessed her growth, albeit in little doses, through snippets of the life of her megamom, Sharon Cuneta.

The public sees her life as that of a princess. She is known by the masses as a symbol of grace, privilege and royalty.

In a grand coming-out party as a vehicle for Human to launch KC as its new flag bearer, 16-year-old KC comes out of her reclusive private space and faces the media, her family and friends, and tells everyone how Human she really is.



BEING HUMAN. KC stands for Kick ass Charm

"I believe, therefore I am. I believe in the differences, which make us different." Her voice resonated along the halls of the tri-level RCBC Theater, filling the air with anticipation. An amalgam of glitz biz and lifestyle press occupied the orchestra level, while the mezzanine and balcony had KC's kith and kin plus the VVIP guests of **Ben Chan**, the heart behind Human.

The **Ariel Lozada**-directed event had video walls surrounding the whole venue. Images of KC hopped from one screen to the other. Even the ceiling had that cinematic effect. Her poetry was painted on the surface of the stage.

Likes and dislikes

Via video, an enumeration of KC's likes and dislikes rolled off. "I love red, orange, purple. I believe in vision, in imagination. I believe boy bands are dangerous." She speaks in sincere "in-your-face" tones, unapologetic for what she believes in yet still exuding tenderness and a fresh sense of fun. "I love R&B, trance music, buffalo wings and blue cheese, Fiona Apple."

"I love. My Mother. I love. Filipino movies. I love 'Madrasta,' " she said, half smiling as she paid tribute to her momma, obviously oh-so-proud of her doting daughter. From shopping in Bangkok to green tea ice cream and feeling collected, she moved to her emotional side.

"Is it Human? To Cry. Pain. Anger. Feeling. I can forgive. I can forget. I can."

She continued with "I don't like superficial people. I don't smoke. I don't like pastel colors, they make me yawn. I love, a mind of my own, brightening someone else's day." Hearing this, you can immediately feel the high level of self-awareness and the inner sweet spunk that society's latest "it" girl possesses.

The video ended with her statement, "I love. I feel. I have. I think. Therefore, I am. KC!" Her Human television commercial flashed for the first time before the audience's eyes, then she came out. Applause.

Onstage, right after the brief Human fashion parade of hip, young edge wear, KC stepped centerstage, radiating a quiet sense of confidence, ready to conquer the world. The audience was quiet, star-struck by her brilliance.

The 'father' question

She responded to the questions very matter-of-factly, knowing the subtle difference between pleasing the audience and at the same time maintaining the dignity of her answers. "I would not endorse anything I don't believe in." Well, she isn't Sharon's daughter for nothing.

Ces Drilon, in her Oprah-esque best, told her colleagues from the media to limit the questions to style and fashion issues. So it was a shock to the audience when a reporter asked her about her "father." "You mean, my Dad?" she said, pointing upward to the balcony, where Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan** was seated. "Or my biological father?" The writer retorted, "Your biological father."

The audience froze. But KC was spontaneous in her reaction. "I don't know him well enough to be able to answer the question. I'm sorry," she said in the kindest manner possible. If that were Miss Universe, she would have won the crown for displaying grace under pressure.

Aside from that, everything went smoothly, with the teen editors having a showdown—**Mia Fausto** of Candy, **Pierra Calasanz** of Meg, **Romina Urra** of Chalk, **Maya Calica** of Seventeen and **Bebeth Timbol** of Teen—each taking turns in asking KC questions about her style.

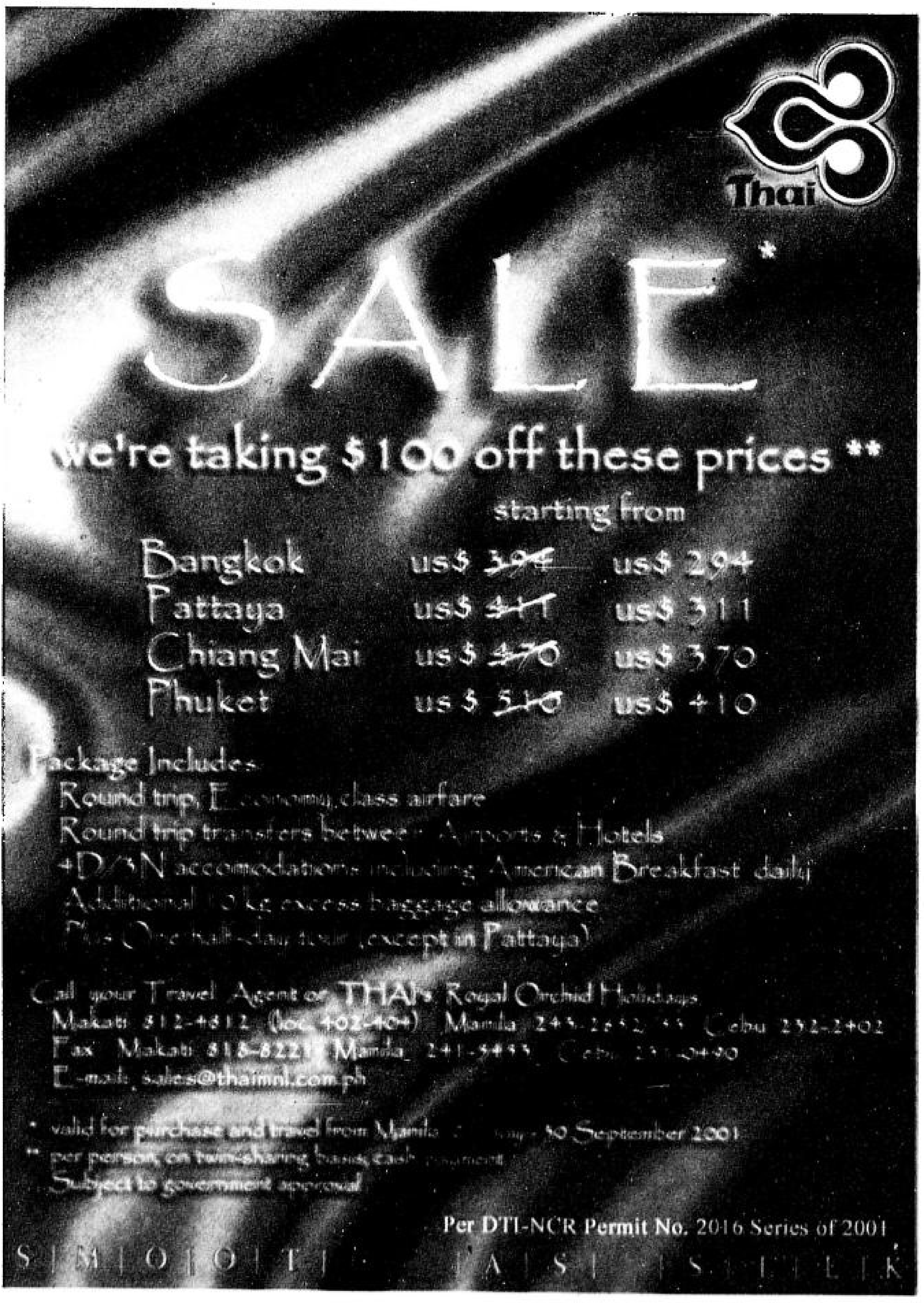
After the event, I witnessed how the television crews all mobbed the Human endorser. This time, they went for her not because she was Sharon's daughter. They flocked to her because she was KC—her own person.

Pulsating charm

An exclusive after-party at Il Ponticello followed, with Ben Chan and friends celebrating the success of the launch. KC table-hopped and met the older guests, but ended up sitting with her I.S. friends, her charm pulsating the whole night.

Seeing her makes me more impressed with the quality of this and the next generation of movers and shakers. Her down-to-earth quality and real-ness moves me. George Eliot put it best when she said, "Blessed is the influence of one human soul on another." I think this holds true for this youth icon.

"I am star-struck by the mother, now I am star-struck by the daughter," I said to myself.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2016 Series of 2001

SMOOTH AS SILK

He's in love with a girl who already has a boyfriend

CHATROOM

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

It's me again, Alex, the jobless chap. I wanna thank you for giving me such inspiring advice. Right now, I'm working in one of the country's largest banks. But that's not my problem.

During my job training I met this girl, AJCM, who was my cotrainee. She is 20 years old and a fresh graduate of an exclusive girls' school. During our training, we had the chance to know each other. We ate lunch together and even went home together. In one of our conversations, she told me she didn't have a boyfriend. But I later learned from my cousin she has been going steady with her boyfriend for four years now.

I'm still attracted to her. Do you think I still have a chance on her? Am I doing the right thing?

ALEX

Let us solve your problem one question at a time:

1. How do you get close to her (again)? Actually, the more important question is will it make you feel better if you become close to her again? No. It will only bring you torture. You can deny until your face becomes blue, but it will never do you good hanging around a girl you know belongs to someone else. It doesn't matter what she said because other people believe she has a boyfriend. It's best for you to keep your distance.

2. Why does she have to deny her boyfriend not only to you but to other people as well? I don't know. Maybe she's a pathological liar. Or maybe she's trying to spite her boyfriend. Whatever the reason is, it's not justifiable.

3. Do I think you still have a chance? Let's not get ourselves worked up. She's in a relationship that might be in trouble and your being in the scene won't help it at all. Unless helping is the last thing in your mind, and that would be pretty rotten of you.

4. Are you doing the right thing? By staying away from her? Yes.

5. When is the right time to say "I love you" to her? Someday, Alex. Someday, when she's free and you still love her. Remember, good things come to those who wait.

SEP

Alex, Alex, Alex. Girls are evil. Must I explain? You came to us one day with a problem: Joblessness. I forwarded you an e-mail address of someone who was interested in helping you get a job. I wonder if it was a golden opportunity for you. I guess you were too busy being a workingman to e-mail us, or to thank us, or maybe send *pancit sa bilao* which is a personal favorite, but that's what the "Chatroom" is for: Finding common ground, getting to the heart of the issue through letters; making things work and seeing dreams through to their completion. We all have dreams. You could say that Sep and I are the "little deranged elves that make dreams come true." I like to use the initials LDEWMDCT not to be confused with the "Bitter, Underpaid Elves in the INQUIRER Word Factory" or BUEIWF.

The last time I crushed on a girl who was erstwhile engaged... well, I never did actually. But here's the thing: I will never let it get in the way of expressing my desire for the new. It's all about forming bridges across gaps in humanity's weak interpersonal (especially Pinoy) relations where there is an *ahas* connotation to socializing between opposite genders. Am I the only one who sings, "Too much lonely people in the world" before sleeping and upon waking up? (Terrible grammar, I know.)

We're all a little lost. Some have no inhibitions in (and about) their confusion. Others just want to be told what they like to hear. They want a bloody hand in the shadows beside theirs, or a goat's neck around which their sins are neatly tied. You, Alex, need to prove to yourself the limits of your desire for the new, for the unknown. The Captain Kirk on the USS Determined. Push the limits, explore the wild frontier, pretend you never heard of her boyfriend—your cousin was never reliable in *tsismis* anyway. I mean, there could be more than one AJCM in the sea, why would it necessarily have to be her. "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?" And if she says "no boyfriend," then, my friend, she means she's got her eye on your large "banking industry." Just make sure you get a return-on-investment, Snaps. Protect yourself against speculation, try to have a diverse portfolio, and withdraw when the time is right.

Proof that girls are evil: First we state that girls require time and money (Girls = Time*Money). Since we all know that time is money (Time = Money), we can say (Girls) = (Money) (Money) or (Girls) = (Money)^2, and because "money is the root of all evil," then (Money) = (square root-Evil) therefore (Girls) = (square root-Evil)^2, and we are forced to conclude that Girls = Evil. Ms Queena Lee will look into the viability of this equation beyond her gender orientation, being a wellspring of evil herself.

CARLOS

Seminar lists leadership qualities

A THREE-DAY leadership seminar was conducted by the Thames Junior Marketing Association (TJMA) at Palm Breeze Hotel, Baguio City.

Jon-Jon Pangilinan, architect and former Philippine president of the International Association of Students in Business and Economics (Aiesec), spoke about the importance of the heart, the head and the habit in being a good leader. Tina Tan, general manager of Suy Sing Commercial Corp., discussed the "Seven Keys of Success." Author and inspirational speaker Ilsa Reyes said a good leader was a lover of God, of vision and of people. Jesuit novice Nonie de la Fuente talked on Christian leadership.

The seminar also included various bonding activities, like the "Boodle Fight" where students ate with their hands and used banana leaves for plates. For Miss TJMA boys dressed as girls, paraded on a catwalk displaying their unshaven legs, all in the spirit of fun. Participants learned the value of working together and respecting each other's individuality.

Singapore school offering grants to Filipinos

ACHIEVE Education Facilitation Services is now accepting applications from students who would like to study at Singapore's Temasek Polytechnic (TP) in January 2002.

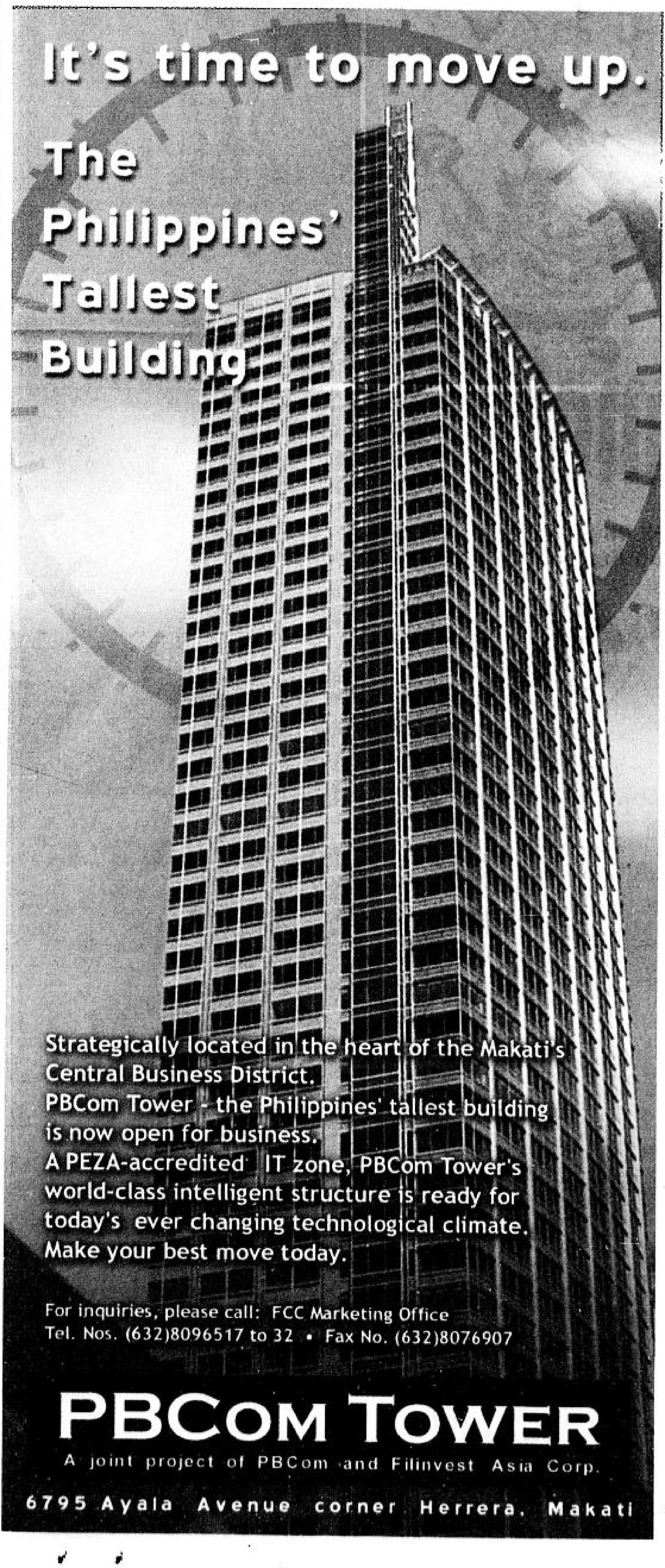
Courses open to Filipino students are Mechatronics and Electronics Engineering. Successful applicants will get up to 80 percent in tuition grant but upon completion of the program, the grantees will work in Singapore for three years.

Last June, TP's School of Design accepted three Filipino students: Rebecca P. Lagunsad (Interactive Media Design), Bryant T. Te Seng (Interactive Media Design) and John Paolo U. Ty (Visual Communications).

Mechatronics and Electronics Engineering will, among others, provide students knowledge on product and process design, factory automation, robotics, machine vision, and manufacturing.

Applicants must be at least high school graduate, 16-25 years old with good academic performance. Applications must be submitted to Achieve Education, which is representing Temasek here. TP will release the results end of November.

Deadline for submission of applications is Aug. 17. For application forms and more information, call Achieve Education at 713-9916 or (0917) 918-0126 or e-mail consltus@info.com.ph. Direct inquiries to TP may be made through Leong Chun Chong, assistant director of international admissions, at (65) 780-5796 or e-mail leongcc@tp.edu.sg.



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- 1 pkg. Small Popcorn
- 1 pc. Chocolait 120 ml

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- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

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- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

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Bitbit Pack⑥
- 1 pkg. Egg & Milk Mini Loaf
- 2 pcs. Small Ensaymada
- 2 pcs. Choco Butter Cake Slice
- 2 pcs. Special Mamon
- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

P100
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Goldilocks 35 taon ng alaalang masarap 1966-2001

Goldilocks
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.

Promo period: August 1 - November 30, 2001. Prices are applicable in Metro Manila only. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0556 Series of 2001

At first blush

By Jules Alcantara

Don't bluff your way to beauty. Apply the right blush-on and make men blush at the sight of you

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MORE often than not, it is the one makeup item that most celebrities and models would choose to bring anywhere, anytime. This makeup item belongs to the top five picks of any professional makeup artist. It has evolved from its original cake-like, stiff texture; it is now available in liquid and cream, making its application easier and its effect, more natural.

Another welcome news—some cheek stains can also be used for the lips so no more double duty for your lipstick. Also called cream blush, cheek stain and face makeup crème, the blush-on has become an indispensable part of a girl's *kikay* kit. I should know—I carry three types of blush on any given day. All for the sake of looking... hmm... natural. My boyfriend lovingly calls them "war paint" (since one has to apply it using one's fingers using an upward stroke to complement and highlight cheekbones).

Hey, at least I can proudly say that as we go through the battle of the sexes, I don't have to sweat in order to look blooming and glowing, right? What can I say? Even in the most no-brainer of topics (such as "war paint"), I have to get the last word in edgewise, right, Pam?

Moving on, here's a quick look at the hottest makeup items in the market that make us... uhhmm... literally blush with pleasure.

Clinique's Cream Blush

This comes in a dainty little compact case that's quite handy because of its size. It is a cream blush that, using a finger, glides on smoothly on your cheek. Although it comes in cream form, it does not leave a sticky feeling on your fingers and cheeks. Clinique Cream Blush comes in a whole variety of shades, but closest to "natural" is Hush Blush. Caution to those with oily skin—this product can make you look slightly oilier than usual. But, hey, you can always argue that the dewy look is in.

It does not come cheap but in the long run it is a worthy investment since one compact can last you, at the very least, a year, even with daily use.

Available at Beauty Bar, Rustan's and PX stores in Greenhills and Glorietta. For more info check out www.clinique.com.

Red Earth's Face Make Up Cream

This cream blush is the most affordable among all the cream blushes yours truly has ever purchased. A fabulous find is shade BRO 11, which is a bronze-brownish shade—quite perfect if you want to look like a bronze goddess or if you're a Jennifer Lopez wannabe. It is also the perfect shade to use at night since its effect is quite strong. The only downside to this is that it makes your face oily. One has to constantly apply loose powder in order to combat the oily and icky feeling. Otherwise, it is another worthy purchase.

Available at Cinderella (all branches). For more info check out www.redearth-cosmetics.com.

The Body Shop's Cheeks and Lip Tint

This lip and cheek tint comes in a glass tube—very cute and handy, especially at night when you're using a little evening bag. You can even place it in your pocket and voila—you can dispose of that "*kikay*" kit and still be assured that you can retouch those lips and cheeks (yes, you can use it for your lips and cheeks). The tip of the tube has a silver metal ball, which comes in handy when applying tint on your lips and face. You don't need to mess up your fingers and run the risk of infecting your face.

Pretty much similar to Benefit's Benetint, this lip-and-cheek stain comes in two shades (01 for a lighter shade of pink and 02 for a darker shade of pink). The thing that bothers me is once you use it on your lips, it leaves a weird, rather sweet taste. Also, it has a thin watery consistency compared to other liquid cheek stains so it fades easily.

Benefit's Benetint

Truth to tell, this is **the** one makeup item that I cannot absolutely live without. Whoever invented this lip and cheek stain is gift from God. It comes in a glass container that closely resembles a nail polish bottle. The similarity does not stop there—the container comes with a brush that is exactly like a nail polish brush. In my opinion, Benetint comes closest in capturing the most natural shade of blush. It is quite expensive and hard to come by here in Manila, but if you were to buy only one makeup item in your, make it Benetint. It is "kiss-proof and smudge-proof"—meaning no unsightly lipstick stains on your coffee mug and other surfaces that come in contact with your lips and cheeks.

The only downside to Benetint is that the cap of the bottle easily slips out, thus the risk of spilling is quite high.

Available at Mix Greenbelt, Macy's (USA), and Sephora (USA). For more info check out www.sephora.com.

* * *

Another cream blush or cheek stain that is worth trying is L'Oréal's Quick Stick Blush, which, according to my cream-blush loving friends, is a worthy substitute to a real blush courtesy of the sun or the gym.

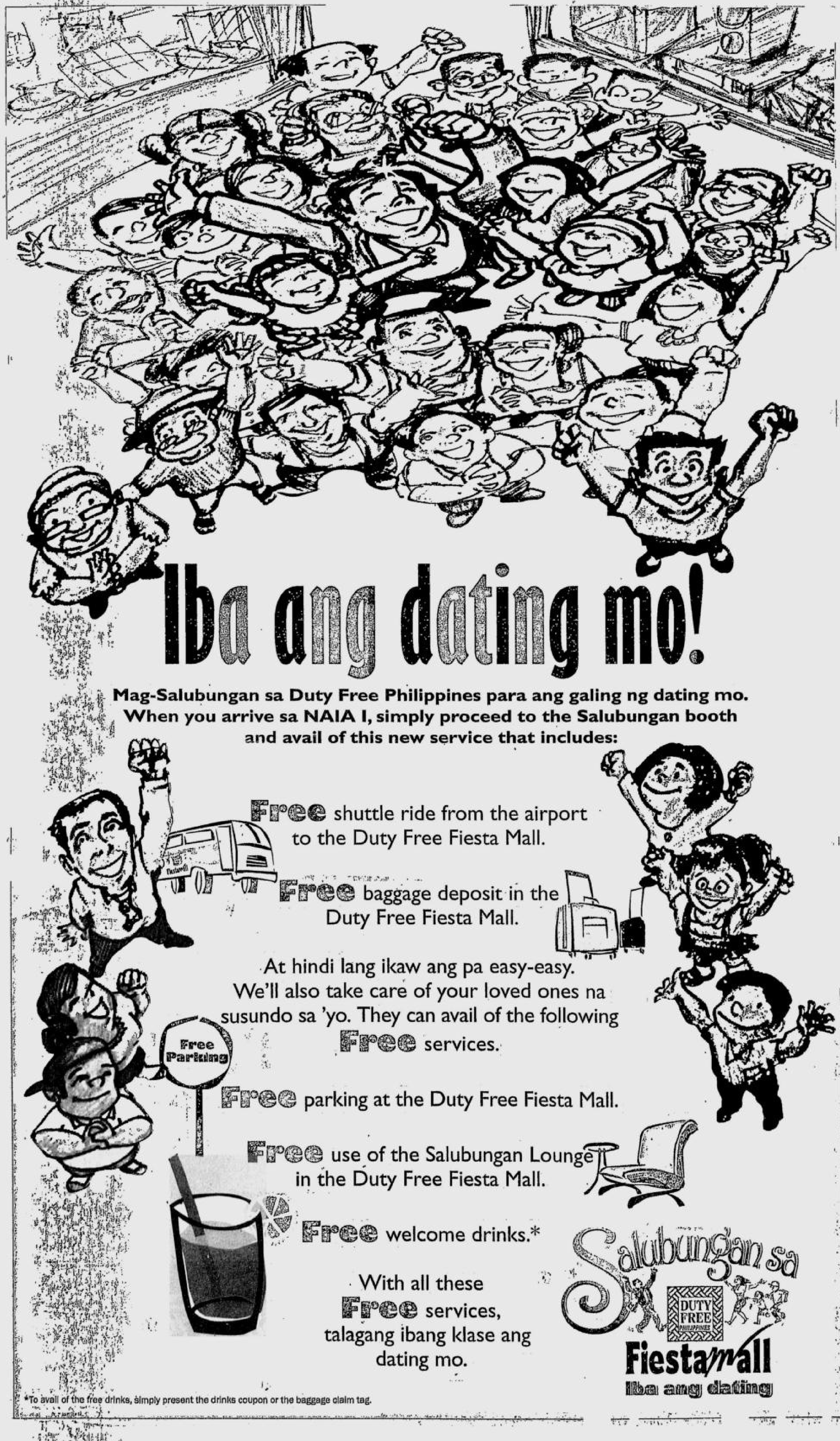
Music magazine has new address

THE EXECUTIVE offices of Pulp, 2bU!'s top pick as music magazine in its year-end poll, were damaged by fire of unknown origin.

The Quezon City Fire Department said the fire started in an unused room on the third floor of the E. Rodriguez Avenue building where Pulp held office.

Fortunately, the magazine's June/July issue had already been shipped out to the Hong Kong printers days before the fire. The goth bridal issue featured Pepe Smith and friends.

Pulp Magazine has resumed operations at its new digs at the 16/F Global Antel Building, Julia Vargas Street, Ortigas Center, alongside sister publication, the newly founded MTV Ink, the first magazine franchise for MTV anywhere in the world.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The wide world of denims

2bU! surveys the jeans scene and finds out there are as many looks as sensibilities and tastes

BY TIFFANY LIMSICO AND HAPPY G. DAVID
2bU! Correspondents

AS ubiquitous as Coca-Cola, Metro Manila traffic and the white T-shirt, jeans have become an essential, indispensable element of our wardrobe. Like a favorite childhood memory, the first pair of jeans is considered unforgettable by most.

Happy fondly recalls her Snoopy jeans complete with a Mexican-outfitted Snoopy patch on the back pocket. Tiffany's were faded Levi's, which she wore with Converse All-Stars; she naively believed then she was the purveyor of the grunge look.

From its humble beginnings as a fabric used by sailors in Genoa to the gold-miner pants in the 1800s, from the stone-washed look of the '80s to the ripped and embellished thousand-dollar Guccis, jeans sure have come a long way. To aid you when you buy your next pair of jeans, here is a brief yet concise survey of some local brands. Though the hunt for the perfect fit may sometimes be as elusive as quality airline food and true love, hopefully, this may help ease the agony a little.

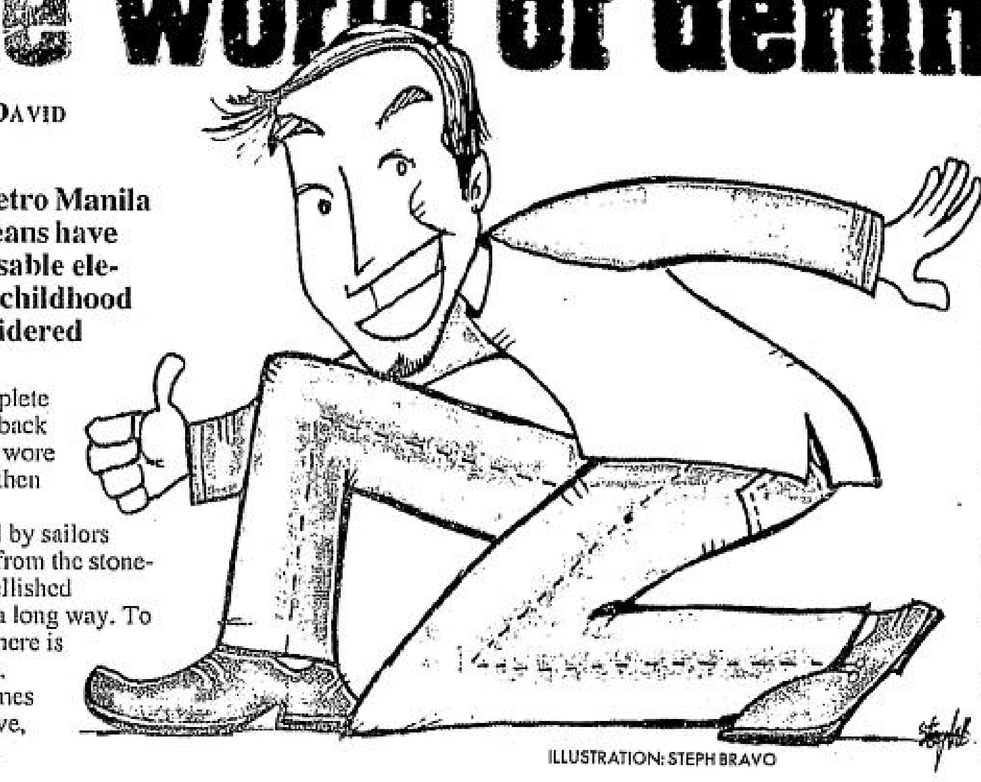

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Levi's

Bestsellers: (for women) 517 bootcut and Superlows (according to the salesgirl, "*Kung ano 'yung uso, 'yun ang binibili*"); (men) 501 buttonfly, maximum comfort because it's made with not only soft but also breathable CoolMax denim fabric by Dupont. Regular/straight cut. P2,299.50.

Priciest: Engineered jeans line (P2,499.50). Good concept. They haven't been moving too fast despite the sleek effect of the fabric, maybe because most of the styles (for men) are tapered.

There's also the Vintage line. It follows the unique narrow loom design used in the 1950s with the famous red selvage. It does not shrink and is strong.

Cheapest: Orange Tab line (P899). Unisex. It's made of the regular old *maong* and comes in two fits—regular (straight) and relaxed.

Guide: 505 (regular or straight cut), 508 (relaxed), 515 (loose), 552 (tight fit), 550 (bootcut), 58202 (tight flares)

Lee

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 26-32, (Men) 27-42

Priciest: P999.

Cheapest: P700.

Bestsellers: Women's (also the priciest at P899); (Men) Detroit Loose fit.

Latest styles: Low-cut ones and jeans without the waistband. Edged with piping.

Guess?

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 24-34; (Men) 26-40

Priciest: (Women) P1,998; (Men) P2,398

Cheapest: (Women) P1,698; (Men) P1,798

They have three washes for you to choose from: Vintage, super-stoned (light) and dark. They have two colored jeans—blue and pink.

Buffalo by David Bitton

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 24-34; (Men) 28-42

Priciest: (Women) Techbel in black, capri style; (Men) Ruffer in straight cut

Cheapest: (Women) Expice in straight cut and made with Spandex. Great for those with irregular fits (P998).

Available in two colors: (Men) Mirage flared jeans and Cosmovi in comfort fit.

Bestseller: (Men) V-Star Comfort fit. Jeans come in light, dark or green denim, even acid-washed.

Bunny

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 24-32

Priciest (and the bestseller): P599.50 Faded Elephant jean flares

Cheapest: P399.50 Faded Straight cut jeans in grayish blue

Mossimo

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 25-34; (Men) 27-38

Priciest: (Women) P1,350; sandblasted bootcut (also the bestseller), straight cut, flared and semi-flared. (Men) P1,890; steamboat, sandblasted, baggy style

Cheapest: (Women) P1,250; dark, sandblasted cropped pants. (Men) P1,290; luxury, semi-blue, straight-cut jeans.

Bobson

Smallest to biggest size available: (Women) 24-32; (Men) 26-36

Priciest and also the bestseller: P599.50. Bootleg cut in M-shade (medium shade)

Cheapest: P569. Straight cut in M-shade. In three shades—light, medium and dark

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and
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Ozeo

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Grand Prize (1) 106.8cms (42-inch) Plasma TV
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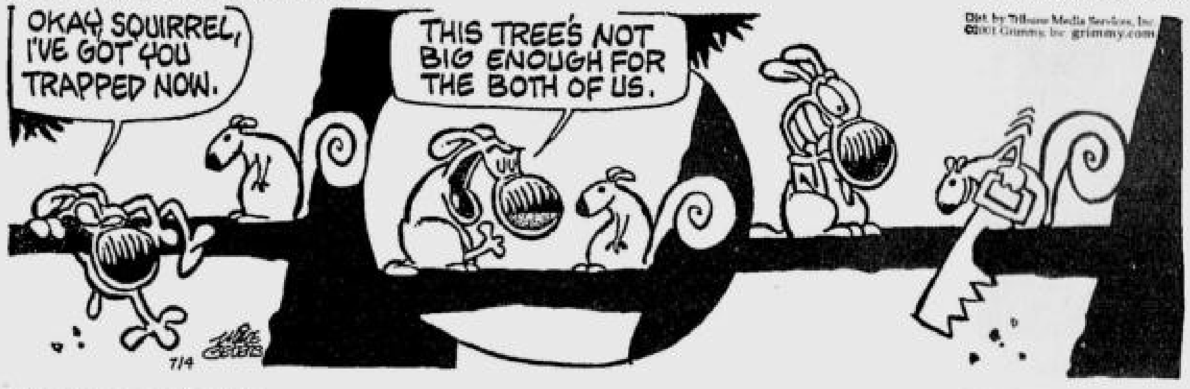
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OKAY, SQUIRREL, I'VE GOT YOU TRAPPED NOW.
THIS TREE'S NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US.
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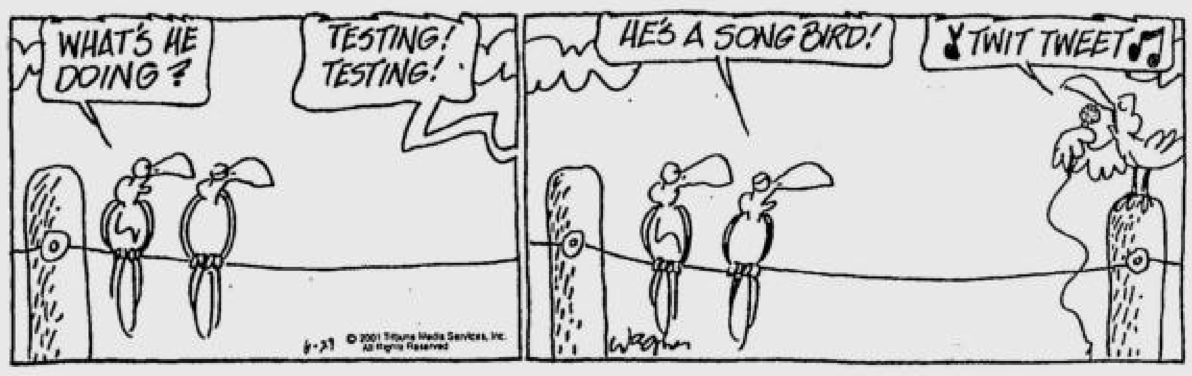
7/4

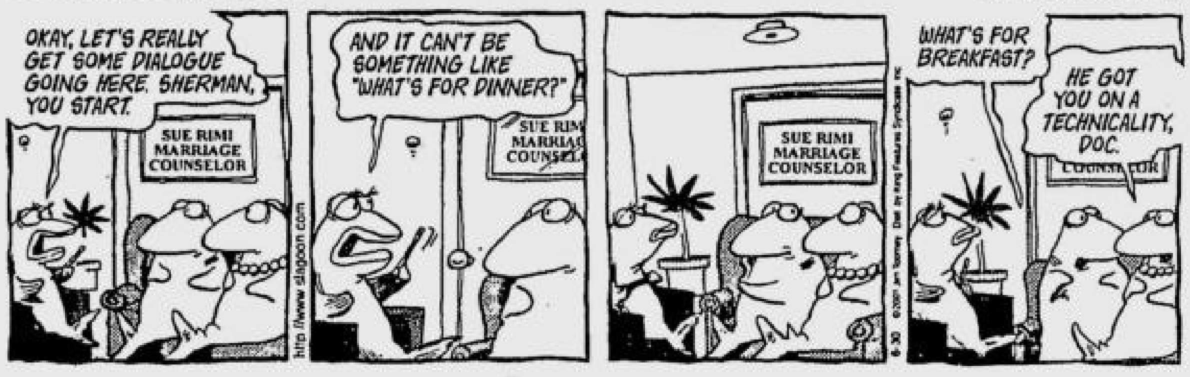
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT'S HE DOING?
TESTING! TESTING!
HE'S A SONG BIRD!
TWIT TWEET
6-27 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
Wagner

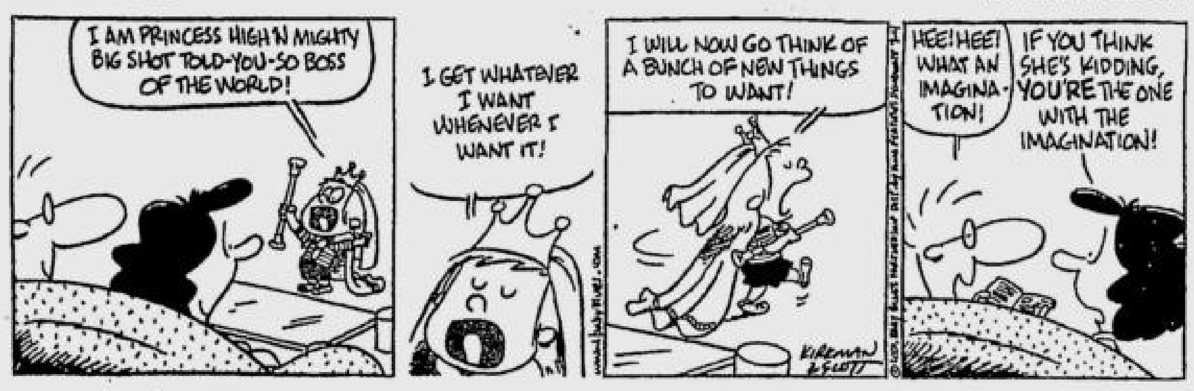
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, LET'S REALLY GET SOME DIALOGUE GOING HERE. SHERMAN, YOU START.
SUE RIMI MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
AND IT CAN'T BE SOMETHING LIKE "WHAT'S FOR DINNER?"
WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?
HE GOT YOU ON A TECHNICALITY, DOC.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I AM PRINCESS HIGH 'N MIGHTY BIG SHOT TOLD-YOU-SO BOSS OF THE WORLD!
I GET WHATEVER I WANT WHENEVER I WANT IT!
I WILL NOW GO THINK OF A BUNCH OF NEW THINGS TO WANT!
HEE! HEE! WHAT AN IMAGINATION!
IF YOU THINK SHE'S KIDDING, YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE IMAGINATION!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dom DeLuise, Yves Saint Laurent, Coolio, Alphonse d'Amato, Tempestt Bledsoe

Happy Birthday: It will be a great year if you don't let your emotions take over. Let your charm and easygoing personality lead you in a positive direction. With the right approach, you will have no problem achieving your goals. If you are negative or pushy, the people who mean the most to you may not include you in activities. Your numbers: 10, 13, 22, 34, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider attending lectures to broaden your awareness of your professional goals and direction. Travel will help you understand those from different cultural backgrounds better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your financial future is looking somewhat brighter. A better position may mean making a residential move, but don't make that decision without consulting your family first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic encounters with colleagues could develop. Be aware of the underhandedness of jealous peers. Concentrate on moneymaking deals and securing your position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romance will unfold through work-related events. Opportunities to advance are evident, but you must keep your emotions well hidden if you wish to accomplish your objectives.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What a wonderful day to concentrate on feeling good about yourself. Spend it at the spa perhaps, or just curled up with a good book or a motivation tape.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's wise to avoid controversial issues that may cause arguments with loved ones. Look into ways of improving your own awareness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participation in family outings or social activities will bring you added popularity and respect. New friendships or romantic connections will be stimulating, even intense.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will overreact if you think someone is not pulling his or her weight at work. Try to be patient; it may be your fault that no one wants to work on projects with you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be emotional about the changes around you. Acceptance will be the key to letting go. The changes are necessary to move on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions may fester if a loved one hasn't been too attentive lately. Think about how much affection and attention you've paid your partner before deciding to make a fuss.

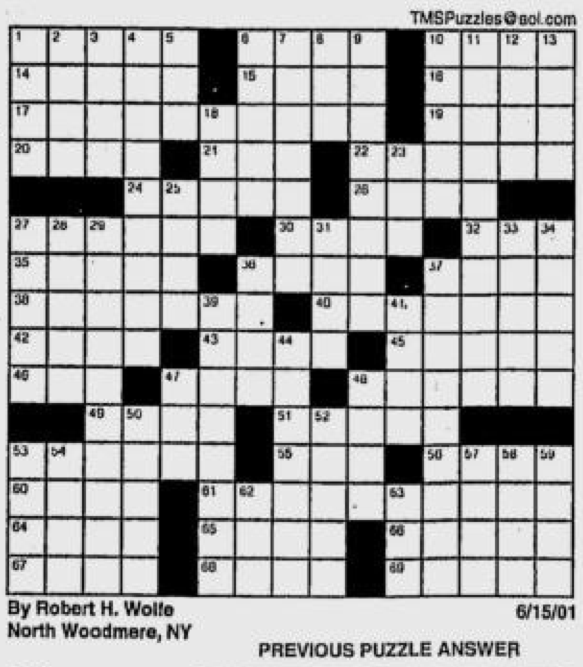
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be secretive about your personal intentions. A colleague may mislead you. Talk to those who have been observing the situation from a distance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will run high if you have not been taking care of your share of the work. Apologize and do something special for your mate to ease the tension.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and caring. You have courage, strength and discipline. Your charm and grace will help sway others to see things your way. You can make a difference.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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67 68 69

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

6/15/01

ACROSS
1 Pros' foes
6 First name in country music
10 Russian ruler
14 "Johnny B. __"
15 Send out
16 Lhasa __
17 Robin Hood's favorite film?
19 TVs
20 Track
21 Soft metal
22 Nielsen or Howard
24 Lessen
26 First name in daredevils
27 Guitarist Flatt
30 Short letter
32 Public vehicle
35 Chips in chips
36 Raison d'__
37 Typeface
38 Astonish
40 Generally
42 Units of work
43 Modern Persia
45 Soviet leader (1917-24)
46 Kind of whiskey
47 Chemical compound
48 Familiar with
49 Musical Porter
51 Second cosmonaut
53 Schools of fish
55 The loneliest number
56 Periods
60 Checked garment
61 Neil Armstrong's favorite film?
64 Monumental entrance
65 "Rule Britannia" composer
66 Analyze chemically
67 Vocalized team spirit
68 Close by
69 Exploits

DOWN
1 Culture base
2 Writer Lofts
3 Amos or Spelling
4 Wrongful worshipers
5 Stitch up
6 Pay the piper
7 Noteworthy
8 Bridle part
9 Sports participants
10 French cup
11 Noah Webster's favorite film?
12 __ Spumante
13 Pinkish wine
18 Lead player
23 First couple member
25 Highest quality
27 Surgeon's tool
28 Way in
29 Lee Strasberg's favorite film?
31 Algerian port
33 In the shadows
34 Short-handed one?
36 Architect Saarinen
37 Like Amy Lowell's poetry
39 Tennis official
41 To boot
44 City in the Alleghenies
47 Cornering pipe
48 Colorado tribe
50 Solemn vows
52 "__ Sanctum"
53 Cicatrix
54 Round dance
57 Artifice
58 Mil. school
59 The __ the limit!
62 Mine output
63 Small boy

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	A	T	E	X		M	E	A	L		D	A	R	T
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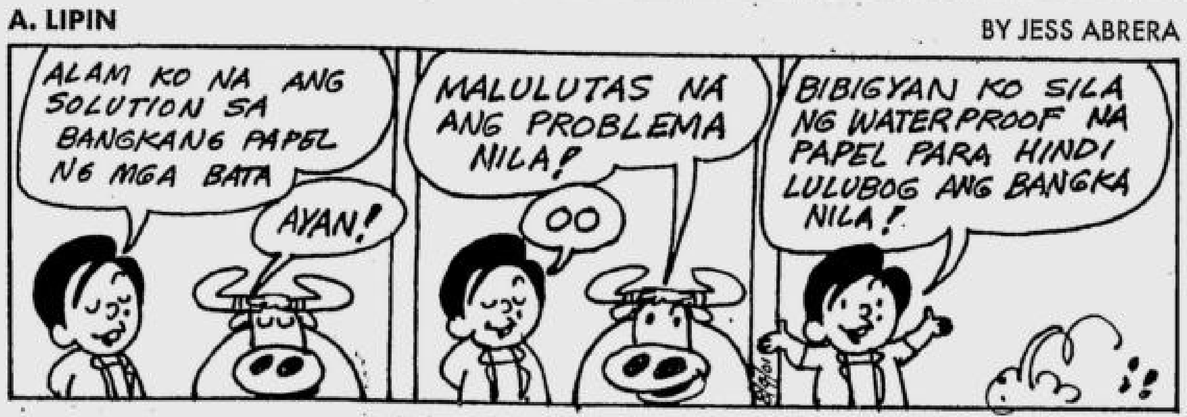
6/15/01

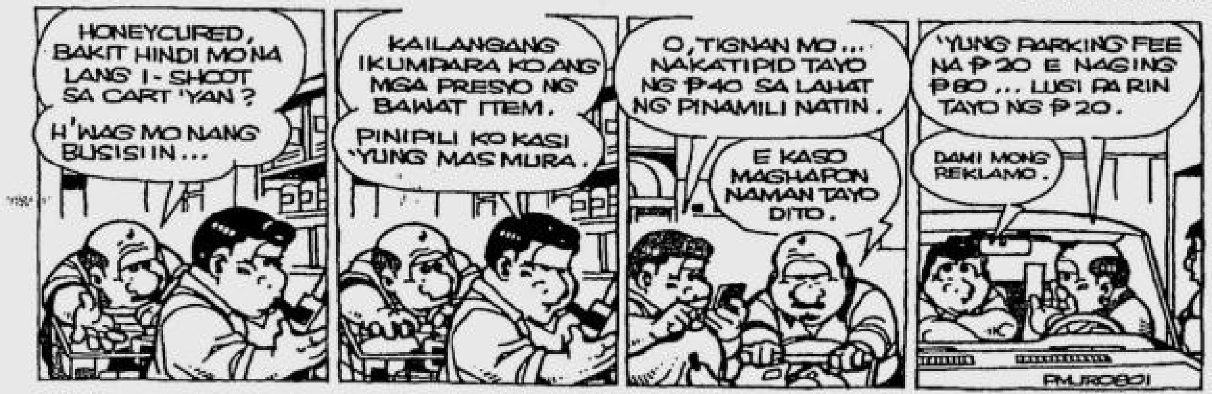
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALAM KO NA ANG SOLUTION SA BANGKANG PAPEL NG MGA BATA
AYAN!
MALULUTAS NA ANG PROBLEMA NILA?
OO
BIBIGYAN KO SILA NG WATERPROOF NA PAPEL PARA HINDI LULUBOG ANG BANGKA NILA!

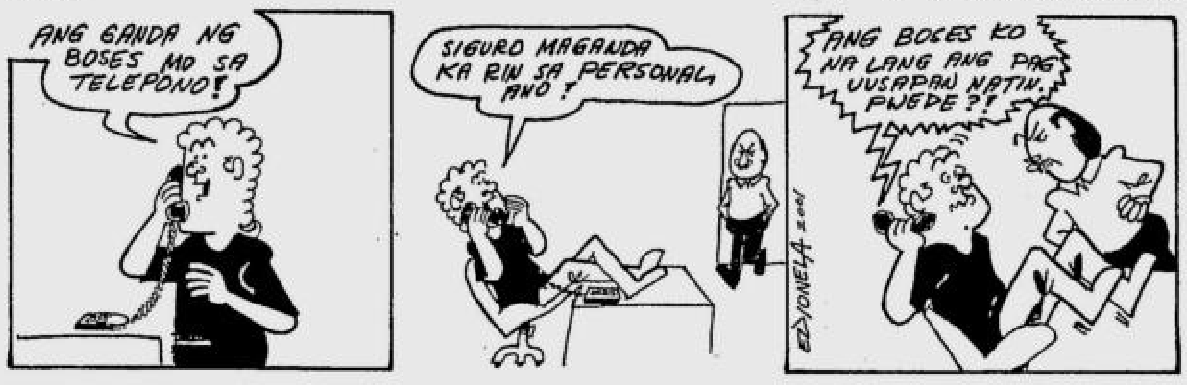
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HONEYCURED, BAKIT HINDI MO NA LANG I-SHOOT SA CART 'YAN?
H'WAG MO NANG BUSISIIN...
KAILANGANG IKUMPARA KO ANG MGA PRESYO NG BAWAT ITEM.
PINIPILI KO KASI 'YUNG MAS MURA.
O, TIGNAN MO... NAKATIPID TAYO NG ₱40 SA LAHAT NG PINAMILI NATIN.
E KASO MAGHAPON NAMAN TAYO DITO.
'YUNG PARKING FEE NA ₱20 E NAGING ₱60... LUSI PA RIN TAYO NG ₱20.
DAMI MONG REKLAMO.
PMJR0801

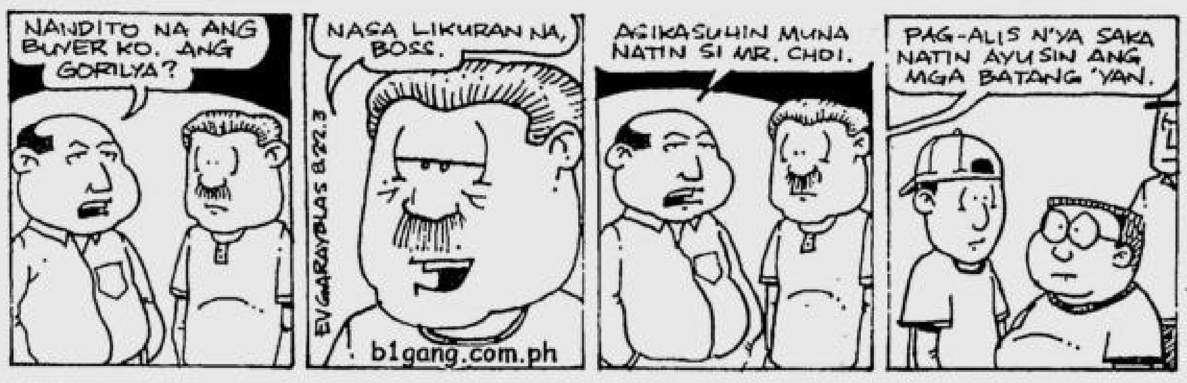
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG GANDA NG BOSES MO SA TELEPONO!
SIGURO MAGANDA KA RIN SA PERSONAL, ANO?
ANG BOSES KO NA LANG ANG PAG-UUSAPAN NATIN, PWEDE?!
EDIONELA 2001

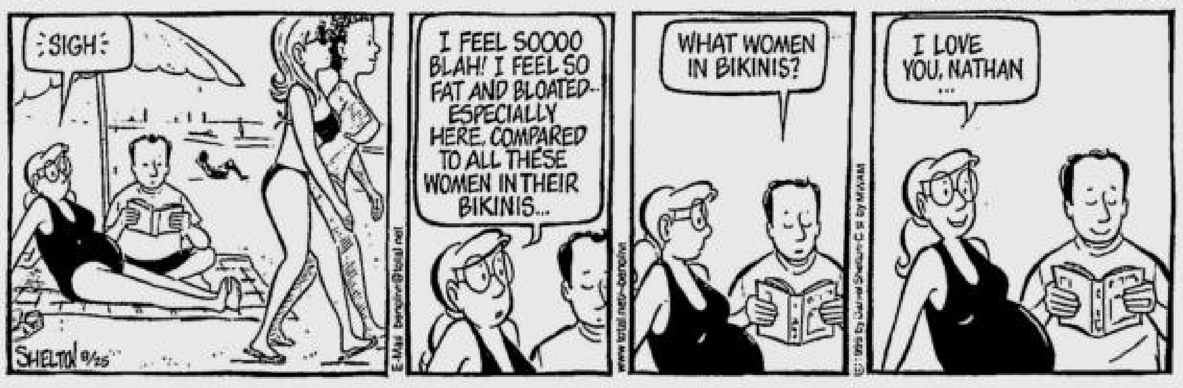
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NANDITO NA ANG BUYER KO. ANG GORILYA?
NASA LIKURAN NA, BOSS.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.22.3
b1gang.com.ph
ASIKASUHIN MUNA NATIN SI MR. CHOI.
PAG-ALIS N'YA SAKA NATIN AYUSIN ANG MGA BATANG 'YAN.

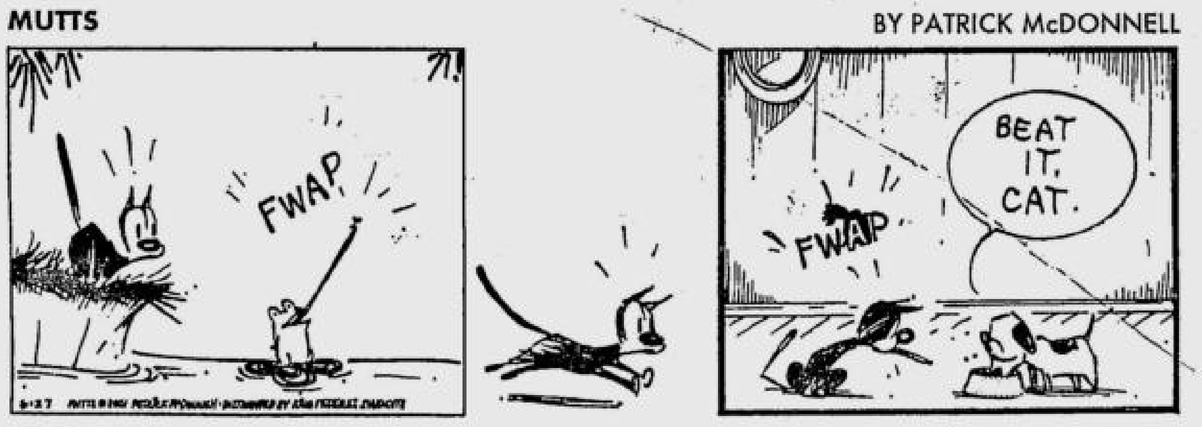
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SIGH
SHELTON 8/25
I FEEL SOOOO BLAH! I FEEL SO FAT AND BLOATED ESPECIALLY HERE, COMPARED TO ALL THESE WOMEN IN THEIR BIKINIS...
WHAT WOMEN IN BIKINIS?
I LOVE YOU, NATHAN ...

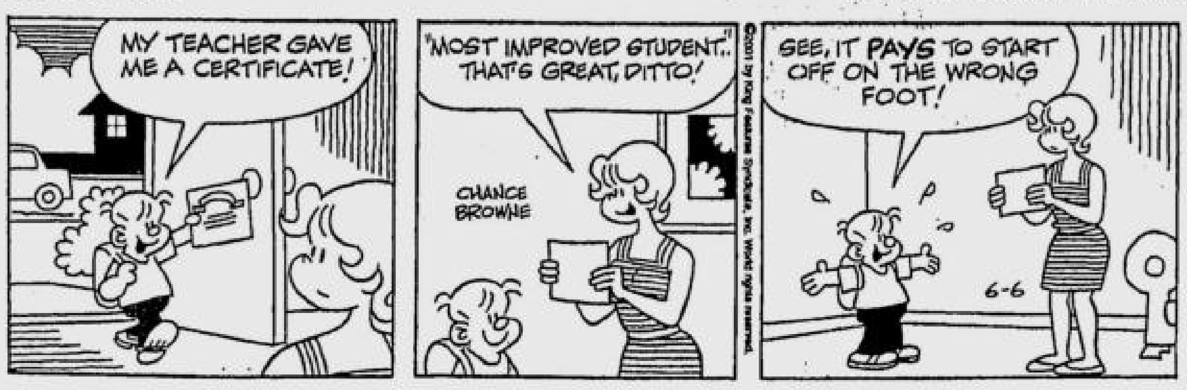
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FWAP
6-27
FWAP
BEAT IT, CAT.

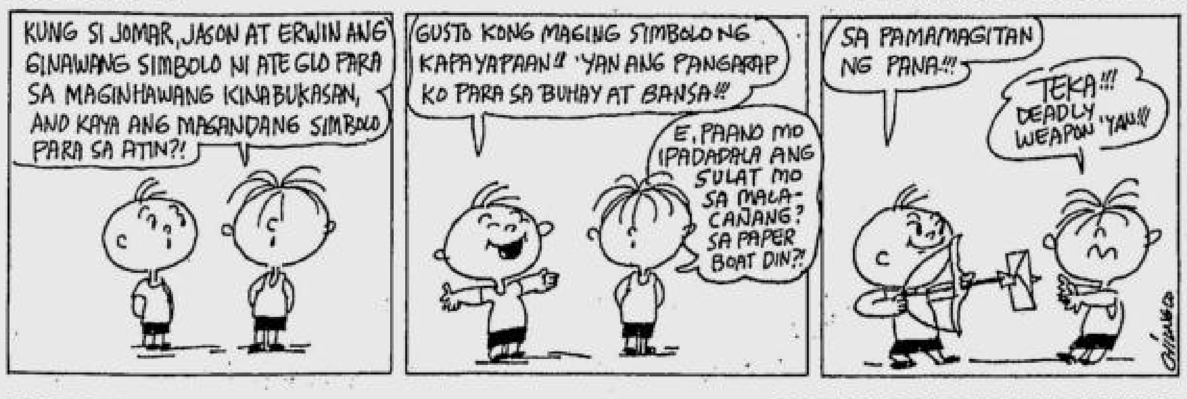
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MY TEACHER GAVE ME A CERTIFICATE!
"MOST IMPROVED STUDENT." THAT'S GREAT, DITTO!
CHANCE BROWNE
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
SEE, IT PAYS TO START OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT!
6-6

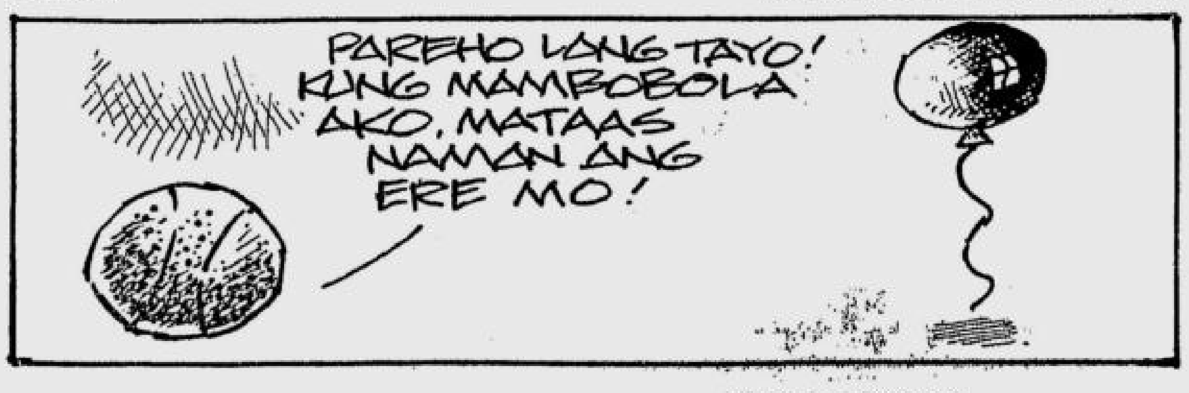
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG SI JOMAR, JASON AT ERWIN ANG GINAWANG SIMBOLO NI ATE GLO PARA SA MAGINHAWANG KINABUKASAN, ANO KAYA ANG MAGANDANG SIMBOLO PARA SA ATIN?!
GUSTO KONG MAGING SIMBOLO NG KAPAYAPAAN!! 'YAN ANG PANGARAP KO PARA SA BUHAY AT BANSA!!
E, PAANO MO IPADADALA ANG SULAT MO SA MALACAÑANG? SA PAPER BOAT DIN?!
SA PAMAMAGITAN NG PANA!!!
TEKA!!! DEADLY WEAPON 'YAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO LANG TAYO! KUNG MAMBOBOLA AKO, MATAAS NAMAN ANG ERE MO!

The top magazine troika

2bu! To be young, to be you, to be... To be you!

Mega, Metro and Preview are an addiction. Sign me up for Magaholics Anonymous

MEGA
10 most beautiful
EXCLUSIVE
KC concepcion

BY JULES ALCANTARA
2bu! Correspondent

IT'S an addiction.

They keep me company everywhere, even in the loo. Day and night, wherever I go, I make sure they are within my reach. I never tire of them and even if sometimes they get tattered and worn out, I still keep them. I devote all my attention to perusing every single page. Truth to tell, during stressful situations when I badly need to summon a happy thought, I find myself looking forward to it. When my son is asleep and the whole household is quiet, I indulge in this rather cheap and, might I add, flighty thrill.

Hello, my name is Jules and I am a fashion magazine addict. It has come to a point that when my friends ask me what I want for my birthday or Christmas, I automatically say, "A year's subscription to…." When funds are low, I make sure to go to Powerbooks and read all these for free. What can I say? I have to have my monthly fix of glossy paper!

The top three magazines that I make sure I have copies of are Preview, Metro and Mega.

MEGA

July cover: KC Concepcion

Plus:

If there's one magazine that literally fulfils my fetish for glossy paper, it's Mega. The quality of paper that they use is smooth to the touch, is guaranteed not to give you those unsightly paper cuts. The general layout and look of Mega is very clean and reader-friendly. Although Mega is more commonly known as a fashion magazine, I think its major strength is that it is a veritable mine of information when it comes to beauty news and tips. Mega's "Best Buys" and "Book Report" are some of the sections I always look forward to. Mega also reviews a different salon/parlor every month and, believe me, their reviews come in handy all the time. It was in an article in Mega where I learned that BCBG offers one of the best foot spa services in town. It was also in this month's issue where I found out that Nars cosmetics, especially its newest product, The Multiple (a multiple-use beauty product for the face), are now available at Rustan's.

And then some:

Mega is very elegant, very safe and conventional. Assuming that this is the guiding premise of the magazine, it is quite understandable that Sharon Cuneta gave consent only to Mega for the first official magazine cover of this year's "It" girl, KC Concepcion. The girl deserves no less than delicate treatment and who else but Mega would be able to fulfill that requirement.

The features on personalities, albeit well written, are quite predictable and unsurprising.

Although I love Mega's photo shoots, they can be a little too safe at times. Mega's fashion spreads need to have a unique look, an identity, a stamp of excellence that will make readers easily identify them as a "Mega" fashion spread. Mega also needs to improve its bookbinding since the pages have a tendency to disintegrate after a while.

METRO

July cover: Pinky Webb, Connie Sison, Cheri Mercado and Pia Hontiveros-Pagkalinawan

Plus:

Okay, nerdy as it may sound, the first thing that I read is the editorial of Thelma San Juan. Editorials set the mood for a magazine's issue and I find that this premise holds true especially for Metro. I reserve reading Metro when I am not hurry, not yet too sleepy. I treat Metro the way I prepare to read a good book—there is an abundance of expectations for learning and discovery. And happily, all these are met in every issue of Metro. They don't scrimp on space for text, which only signifies that it has confidence in the featured stories and in its readers—as opposed to subscribing to the notion that magazine readers have a short attention span. Other sections I look forward to are Metro's "Get Real" and "Cause."

This month's "Bridget Jones" theme for its fashion spread was very timely and I must say, a stroke of genius. I also could not help but utter a "Wow!" when I saw the fashion pictorial shot at the Big Dome, Araneta Center.

I must say that Metro provides us with the best excuse to justify our addiction to glossy magazines—its content satisfies both our vain and intellectual concerns.

And then some:

There are times when Metro has a lot of typos or errors that could have been avoided with better proofreading. (It's a monthly, for God's sake.) I didn't like the quality of this month's cover. The journalists didn't look their best in the cover although in the features, they looked ravishing.

Preview
P100
53
Women We Envy
Cojuangco
CELEBRITY MAKEOVERS
Sisters: The Ultimate Girlfriend
28 Fashion & Beauty Splurges

metro
P100
Best Style
SEX, STYLE SANITY ON THE JOB

PREVIEW

July cover: Mikee Cojuangco

Plus:

Preview reminds me of Judith Krantz's main character in "I'll Take Manhattan" (which was my favorite book when I was in the fifth grade). The main character, Maxi Amberville, wanted to create a magazine that was "fun." And fun, Preview truly is!

Reading Preview is like going on a girl's nightout minus the innumerable hassles—it is enjoyable. This may sound *mababaw* but reading Preview de-stresses me. Because of Fashion Police, making *pintas* becomes an exclusive, once-a-month habit—as opposed to making it a daily ritual. I always look forward to the celebrity makeover every month. I mean, who can forget how Isabel Granada turned out under the expert hands of Preview's former editor, Tara Santos? Even Jolina looked tolerable—which only goes to show that Jolina's assets are misdirected and under-utilized.

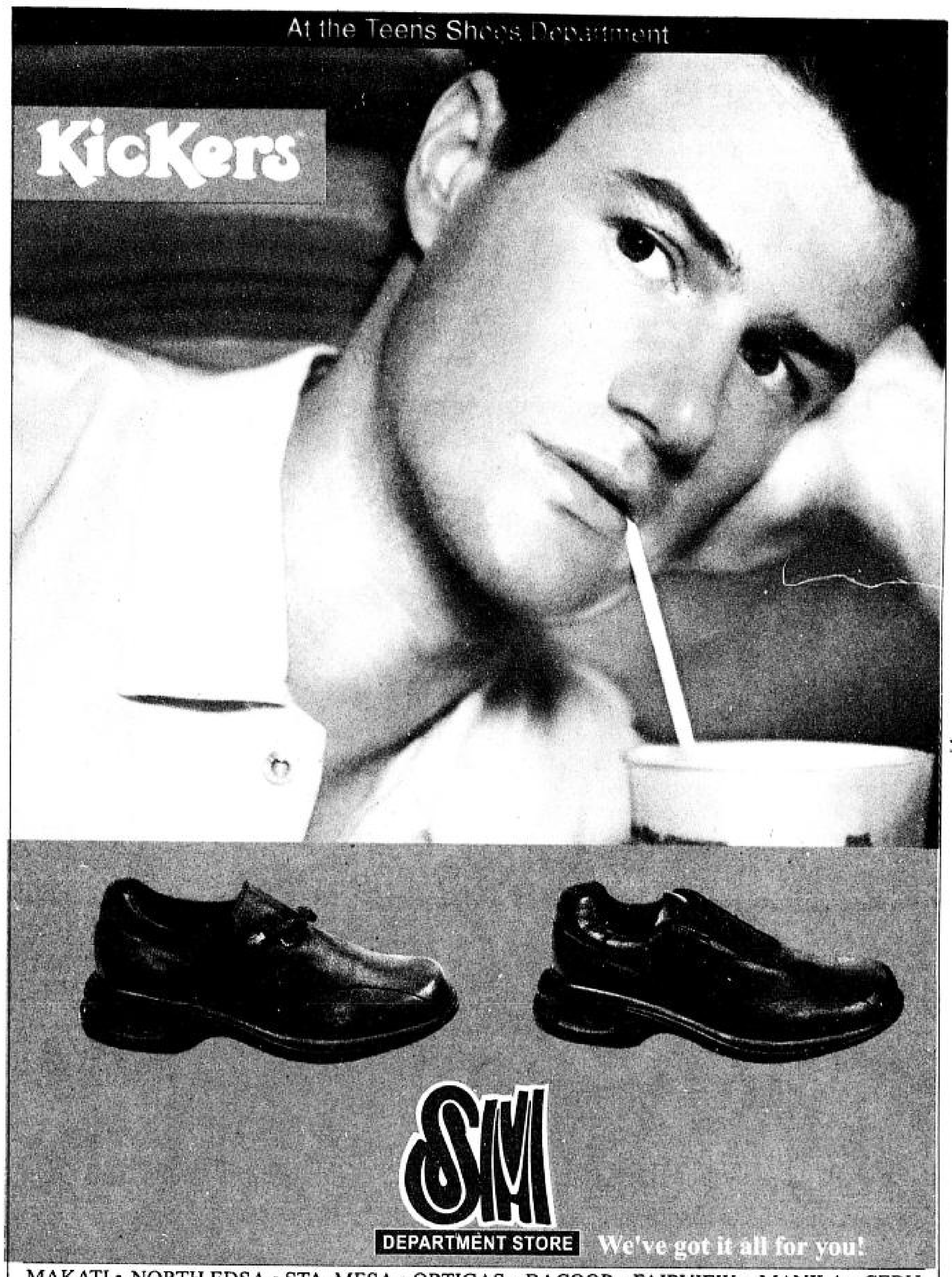
There's always something new, vibrant and fresh with every issue. The magazine does not sacrifice the reader's need for something reliable. It is the only local magazine that makes me scrutinize every nook and cranny of every page. They have the requisite personality features—but they stand out since they manage to come out with the right kind of "juice" to quench our need for celebrity gossip. Their pictorials are always fabulous and inspiring, from the styling, to the clothes, to the choice of model, to the venue. The clothes they feature in the pictorials are easy to find—hence it is not impossible to picture one's self prancing and preening about in those clothes. It is also highly commendable that Preview has regular fashion tips and advice for their not-so-skinny readers.

All in all, Preview has the kind of cutting edge and innovative appeal that does not at all annoy or offend. How they manage to maintain that kind of equilibrium is beyond me. And with fashionista Pauline Suaco as its new editor in chief, one can only await each new issue with excitement and anticipation.

And then some:

I must say that their choice of cover for the month of July was a bit uninspired. I have nothing against Mikee Cojuanco and all that, but c'mon, she has been on the cover so many times! I also belong to the minority that misses the matte covers of before. I also wish their articles and features would be longer. Although Preview always comes up with very tight issues, I do want to point out that it leaves me feeling a bit *bitin*. I want more pages.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 2348 SERIES OF 2001

Falling in love online

Chat
Connect
Crash
By Nan McCarthy
Pocket Books

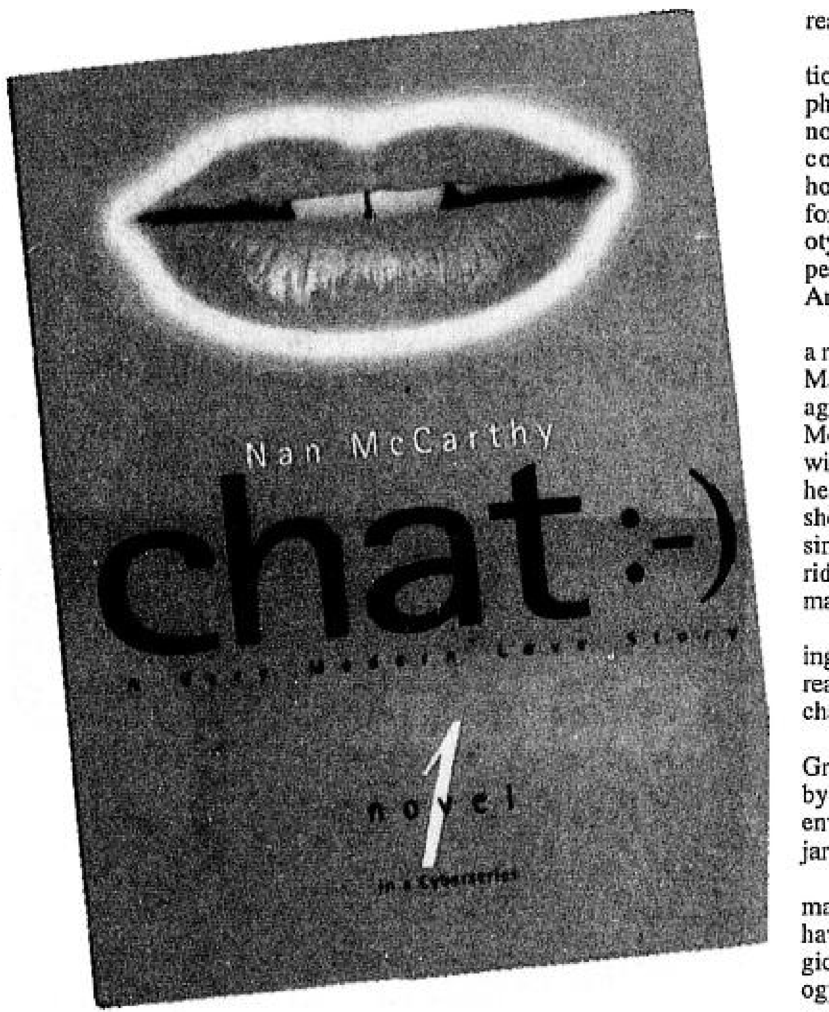
By Pam Pastor

REVIEWS

"NO one can speak about the wonders of the Internet better than someone who has fallen in love online." This is something a friend said during a very emotional discussion about the growing phenomenon we know as cyberlove.

I completely, absolutely agree.

Almost every other person in the connected world has experienced cyberlove—okay, lust, for some. Hitting the power button of your CPU the moment you open your eyes in the morning to be able to chat with him/her, getting mouse pad burns on your wrists, having your ISP bills shoot up, straight out of the roof, giving and receiving MP3s, virtual flowers, chocolates, pizzas, even engagement rings—these things make for an online relationship. And whether the relationship flourished IRL (that's "in real life" for you, Internet newbies) or not, people who've had online beaus will tell you that it was not a game (those who took it seriously, anyway). That regardless of whether the cards and flowers have long disappeared into the abyss called cyberspace, the love was very real.



Scoff all you want, cynical, traditional, non-romantic ogres. But this phenomenon hasn't just affected your normal mushy, head-in-the-clouds, constantly-hunting-for-true-love hopeless dreamers. And it's not just for nerds, either (Come on, that stereotype is sooo old.). Even levelheaded people have been bowled over online. And that is an understatement.

This is what happened to Beverly, a married publishing house editor, and Maximillian, a copywriter for an ad agency, in the cybertrilogy by Nan McCarthy. The whole story begins with Max's e-mail to Beverly, asking her to help him decide whether he should buy a PC or a Mac. From this single e-mail stems the roller-coaster ride of Max and Bev's passionate romance.

connect }:-)
A Very Modern Love Story
2
novel
in a Cyberseries

Readers have the thrill of following their blossoming relationship by reading their e-mails, online forum excerpts and chat transcripts.

Yes, you can say that Max and Bev are the Griffin and Sabine of the Internet era. Say goodbye to postcards and letters you can pull out of envelopes and hello to emoticons and online jargon.

Aside from the time setting, Nick Bantock's masterpiece and Nan McCarthy's cyberseries have significant differences. Although both magical, the success of the Griffin and Sabine trilogy comes from the enchanting plot while readers feel the power of McCarthy's work through the connection between her two main characters. Griffin and Sabine would whisk you off to a fantasyland while Max and Bev make you feel like you actually know them. That they could be your neighbor, your friend, your officemate. That they're real. And that what happened to them could happen to you.

Both trilogies, though, offer the same novelty—the sinful excitement of reading other people's mail and snooping in their private conversations.

I love Bev and Max—Max, especially. Though both characters are witty, McCarthy effectively wrote the e-mails in two different voices. McCarthy does not dictate what you should think about the protagonists. There was no need for descriptions that droned on and on, the characters' personalities shone through in their words.

The e-mails are funny. Here's a sample:

Max: "I wasn't trying to pick you up—I don't do cybersex, and you could be a real toad for all I know."

Bev: "I am not a toad, for your information. You, on the other hand, are probably wearing a smelly jogging suit with your butt hanging out the back and Cheetos crumbs hanging off your beard."

Suckers for good lines (ahem, Jules) wouldn't run out of quotes to send around (no spam, please) like this winner from Max, "You piss me off sometimes... because you intrigue the hell out of me." and Beverly's "Falling in love has always been a mixture of electricity and calm." If that's not mushy enough, read Max's poems for Bev. No rhyming crap, don't worry.

Surprising twist

By writing this review, I am treading on dangerous waters. I would love to discuss the plot in detail (I'm dying to, actually.) but I don't want to reveal too much. I don't want to ruin the reading experience for you. Let me just say that every book has a surprising twist.

We have McCarthy's guts to thank for the publication of these books. Since big publishing houses weren't biting, McCarthy self-published "Chat" in 1995 and began selling it via her website in the same year. This, she proudly claims, was before anyone even heard of Amazon.com. Encouraged by the positive feedback she received, she self-published "Connect" the following year. She sold the rights to the trilogy to Pocket Books in 1998. To date, the books have been translated in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, German, Turkish, Slovenian and Russian.

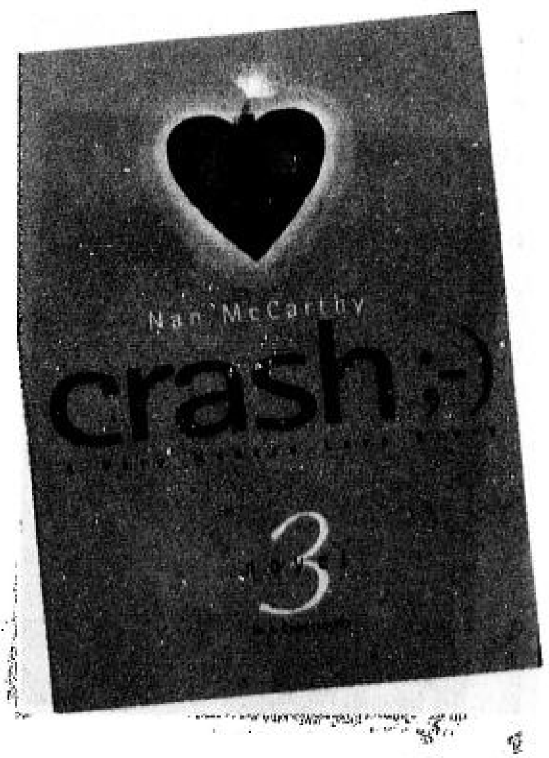
I have to warn you. If you're going to start reading, make sure you have enough time. For me and the many others who have read this book, putting it down was unthinkable. The pages just fly by. I've read the trilogy twice. The first time I started reading it was while waiting for a cab right after buying it. Motion sickness forgotten, I didn't stop till I got home. And even after that. I read it again last week and when I was right in the middle of book two, "Connect," Meralco decided to turn the power off in our area. Thank God for my flashlight. I finished the third book, "Crash," before sleeping.

It doesn't matter if you've never chatted in your life. After all, love is a universal concept, whether online or not. And McCarthy, ever so considerate, included a glossary of online jargon.

Now if only I can convince my grandma to read the books.

Available at Powerbooks

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com



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Motorola V2288: User-friendly

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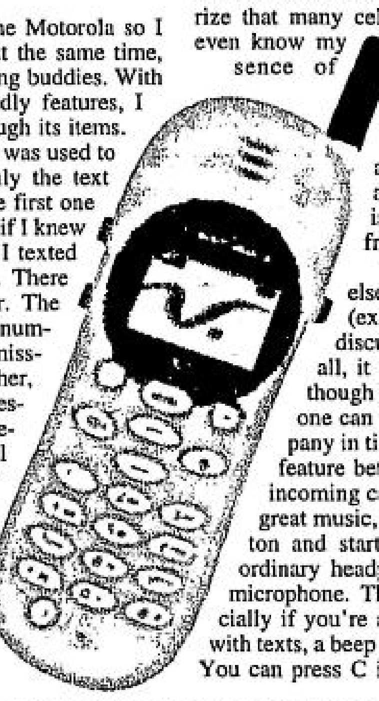

I WAS about to rave about this phone when I realized that there is one important thing that this phone couldn't do. Here's the story:

I put my old SIM card in the Motorola so I could use the cell phone and, at the same time, still keep in touch with my texting buddies. With the help the phone's user-friendly features, I had no problem navigating through its items. It was easy to use even though I was used to a different brand. Then suddenly the text messages started coming in. The first one asked about my whereabouts, as if I knew him. His name was unlisted so I texted him back, asking who he was. There was no reply from his number. The next message, from a different number, was a simple "hello." Dismissing him as another text pal searcher, I deleted his text. The third message that came in was from someone whose number I very well knew. There was no way her name should have appeared unlisted since I remember storing it in my phone book. Then it dawned on me. The Motorola V2288 does not display the names in the message inbox even if their numbers are stored in the phone book.

This is definitely difficult, especially for someone who's got a hundred friends, acquaintances or business associates. I don't think one is expected to memorize that many cell phone numbers. Heck, I don't even know my Mom's. Therefore, with the absence of this feature, one will have to: keep a written list of his phone book (which defeats the purpose of having one in the first place) and reply back to the messages, and ask them who they are (which is expensive and offending to your friends).

Aside from this problem, nothing else is disappointing about this phone (except for the batteries, which I'll discuss later). In fact, I like it. First of all, it has a built-in FM radio. So even though this phone doesn't have any games, one can trust the V2288 to keep him company in times of boredom. In fact, I like this feature better than games. And if there's an incoming call while you are listening to some great music, you can simply press the OK button and start talking. This is because unlike ordinary headphones, the V2288 has a built-in microphone. This can be pretty liberating especially if you're a person always on the move. As with texts, a beep will notify you if one just came in. You can press C if you prefer to read the message later. It's because you cannot use the FM and cell phone mode at the same time.

Other features of this phone include the phone book (which thankfully, displays the name of the caller if it's stored in the menu), call related (diverting, barring and waiting), phone setup (set ringing/message alert tone) and WAP. With the last feature, it's easy to access the Internet, although I think this feature is network- rather than phone-dependent.

And now, the batteries. I almost choked when I saw them. Unlike the flat cellphone batteries that we are all used to, the V2288 uses the triple A kind (yes, think Energizer). It was a hard concept for me to accept, so I immediately turned the phone on. Wow, they worked! They're rechargeable, so you don't have to buy three new ones every time you go low batt (geez, that's funny!) But still, I have a problem. I kept imagining this scenario wherein I'd drop my cellphone in a crowded place like the mall. The battery cover splits open, then lo! The batteries roll out on the floor. That would be embarrassing. But vanity aside, I found out they are easily drained; almost every day, I have to recharge.

Overall though, it's still a good buy. Considering that this phone is just a bit over P2,000 under Globe's Class Act promo, it's worth it. For someone who's not much into texting but realizes the need to keep in touch, the Motorola V2288 is just right.

Jason Doplito

In search of the perfect cellmate

For more than a week, five 2bU! correspondents gave up their old, reliable mobiles to test some of the newer cell phones on the market

IN SEARCH/ p.D2

Nokia 5110i: The 5110 makeover

Price: P4,395

THE 5110, the Nokia cell phone model that became a big hit a few years ago, has undergone a makeover. Now called the 5110i, it's more sleek with its navy blue casing and silver keypad. But aside from the outer change, the added "i" in the name, more games and the ability to receive ring tones, this model is not much different from the old 5110. It's durable—sturdier than most of the newer cell phones that boast of an endless list of features (most of these features remain unused anyway). The 5110i has all the basic functions and features of a Nokia phone - receiving and making calls, text-messaging, etc. This phone will work well for the no-fuss, nonsense type of user.

The phone doesn't have its own memory, so if you're the type who can't erase mushy quotes you've received, have your SIM upgraded.

The 5110i phone has call register, call duration and call divert functions. There's an alarm clock and a vibrate feature. You have three games you can kill time with—Memory, Snake and Logic.

The 5110i offers four types of batteries—slim, standard, vibrating and extended.

Happy G. David

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top ten ring tones

SONG		ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	Charlie's Angels Theme	Eliot, Ferguson, Gold	TONE CHARLIES
2	Uptown Girl	Billie Joel, Westlife	TONE UPTOWN
3	A-team Theme	Post, Carpenter	TONE ATEAM
4	All the Small Things	Blink 182	TONE ALLTHE
5	Lullaby	Nursery Rhyme	TONE LULLABY2
6	Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
7	The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
8	Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB
9	Sweet Like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
10	Twinkle Twinkle Little Star	Nursery Rhyme	TONE TWINKLE

new ring tones

SONG		ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	Back In The USSR	Beatles	TONE BACKUSSR
2	Birthday	Beatles	TONE BIRTHDAY
3	Drive My Car	Beatles	TONE DRIVEMYC
4	Get Back	Beatles	TONE GETBACK
5	Got To Get You Into My Life	Beatles	TONE GOTTOGET
6	Hard Day's Night	Beatles	TONE HARDDAYS
7	Hey Jude	Beatles	TONE HEYJUDE
8	Let It Be	Beatles	TONE LETITBE
9	Come Together	Beatles	TONE COMETOG
10	Ticket To Ride	Beatles	TONE TICKETRDE

new logos

top ten logos

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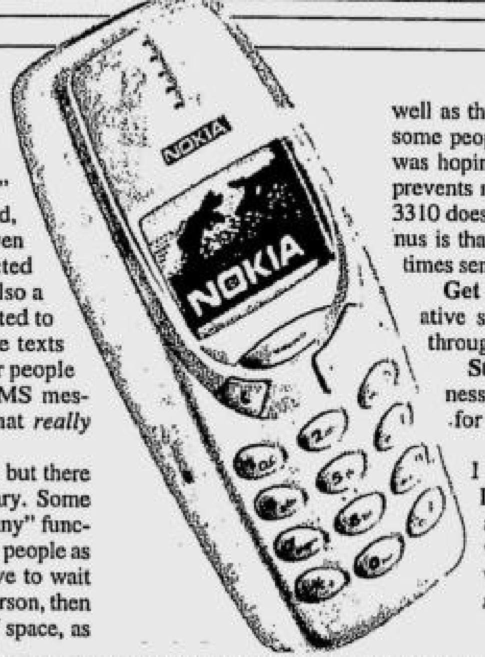
In search of the perfect cellmate

IN SEARCH /p.D4

Nokia 3310: The text maniac's phone

Price: P6,290



I HAVE a 3-year-old Nokia 5110 that is begging to be replaced. The keypad's numbers are virtually nonexistent, the screen is fond of disappearing acts and it basically decides on its own when to shut off (usually this happens when I'm in the middle of *very important calls*). So hello, Nokia 3310! I was psyched, psyched, psyched to handle a phone that hadmore features and actually fit in my jeans pocket. Did I mention psyched already?

The upside: Let's just say my fingers just slide over the keypad. Admit it—it's so much fun to text on a 3310. I was immediately addicted to the game Space Impact, and even though I've finished it loads of time, I still play it again and again hoping to beat my top score. And—finally—I had the right to search for ring tones online! I have to admit, it's so much more fun answering calls when you've got the "Animaniacs" theme song playing on your phone (go ahead, make fun of me)! You can store up to seven personalized tones, perfect for those addicted to composing them. Picture messages are also a plus—I found them handy whenever I wanted to send Hallmark-esque messages that simple texts just can't relay. And, the biggest feature for people like me who always have a *lot* to say, SMS messages can be up to 460 characters. Boy that *really* came in handy!

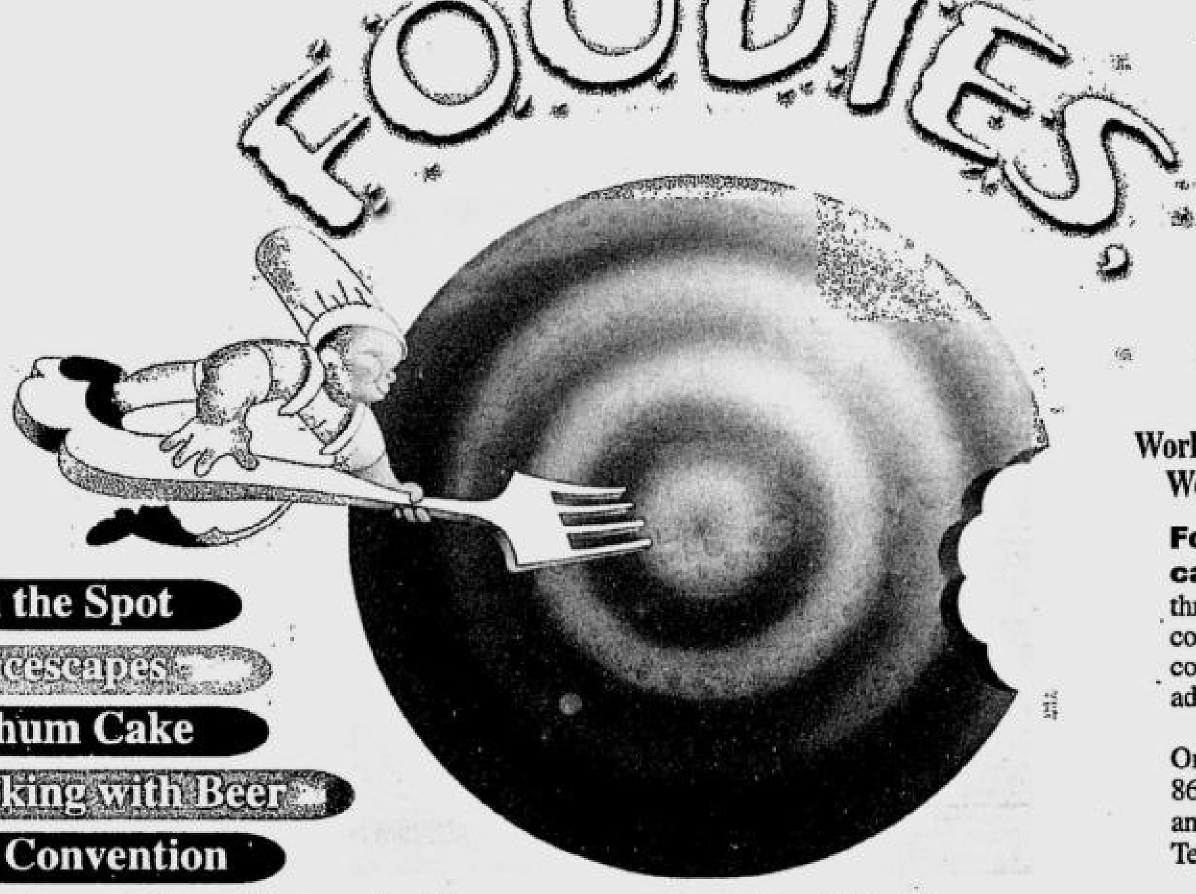
The downside: It may be a slick phone, but there are some features that really aren't necessary. Some are even downright stupid. The "Send to Many" function is actually sending a message to as many people as you like... *manually.* Meaning you still have to wait for the message to send, then pick another person, then send again. The Smileys are a real waste of space, as well as the Templates (although it may work for some people, it definitely didn't for me). Also, I was hoping for a phone memory since my 5110 prevents me from saving lots of numbers, but the 3310 doesn't have a phone memory. Another minus is that this phone tends to hang a lot. Sometimes sending messages takes forever.

Get this phone if: You're into games, creative stuff and telling looooooooong stories through text.

Steer clear if: You're looking for a business phone. The Chat feature won't work for you, and there's no phone memory.

The verdict: I must admit, even though I initially complained about this phone, I'm starting to love it. It fits in my pocket and entertains me when I'm bored. And who can say no to that cute little icon with "Big Hug" as a screensaver (I do *not* know why there is a screensaver)?

Maui V. Reyes



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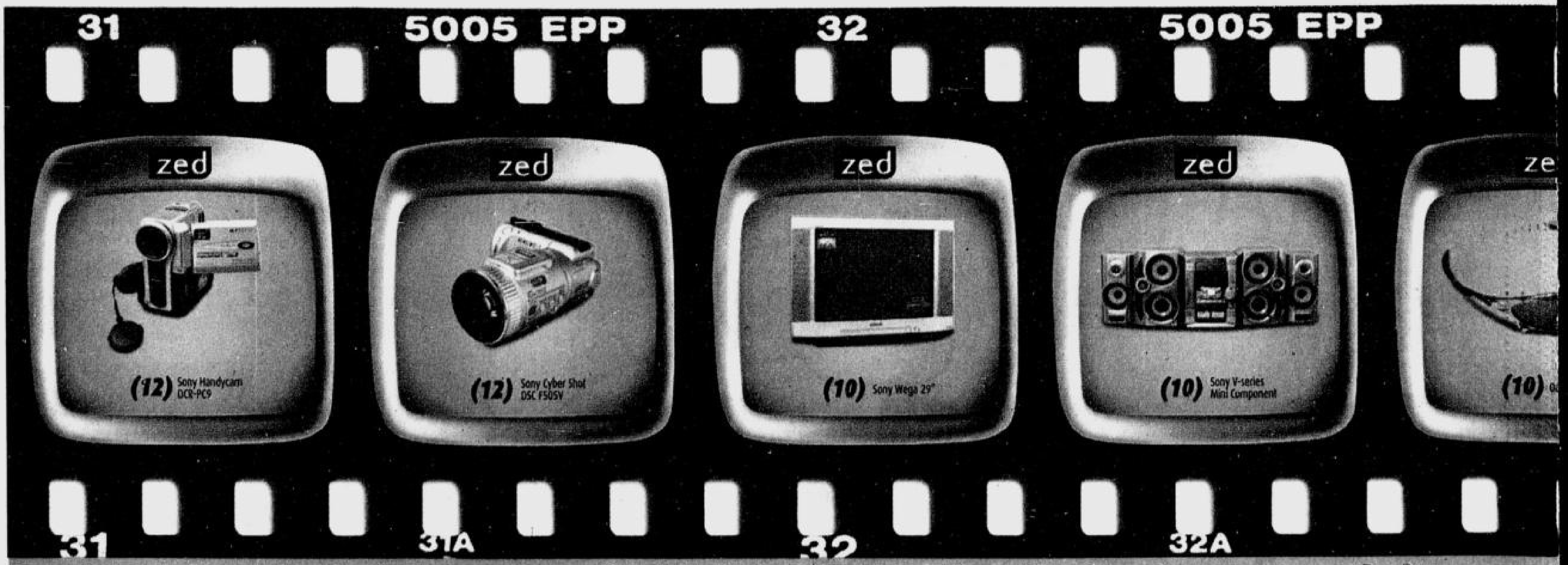
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I'll take Shakespeare any time over 'Tomcats'

Save your brain cells—enjoy a play

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN was the last time you ditched a movie for a play? When the week's movie lineup promises you nothing better than "Tomcats," you owe it to yourself to conserve your brain cells by immersing yourself in the arts, particularly, the theater arts. Sure, you may have to shell out a couple more bucks than usual, but at least you know it's money well spent.

The other Sunday found me heading toward Palma Hall in UP Diliman to catch the matinee showing of William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale", the first play of Dulaang UP's 26th season. If the title doesn't ring a bell, that's because it's one of the Bard's less known plays. "The Winter's Tale," like most Shakespeare plays, is dynamic in scope, covering themes ranging from deception, jealousy and forbidden love. In a nutshell, "The Winter's Tale" is about how the jealousy of a king triggered a series of tragic events culminating in a reunion with his wife and the daughter he had renounced 16 years ago.

The drama is presented in minimalist and contemporary in design. The stage was empty save for a few props, and most of the actors were garbed not in heavy velvet and lace, but in simple black, gray and white outfits. In certain portions of the play, film clippings (reminiscent of the silent films) are projected into a huge blank wall. I found this very ingenious. Because of the minimalist design, the audience was forced to focus on the acting and the plot instead of getting distracted by the set (which happens in big productions, when the set is elaborately designed).

The acting was very impressive. Ebong Joson gave a powerful performance as King Leontes, and Domi Espejo as Autolycus and Frances Makil-Ignacio as Paulina were crowd favorites. However, some of the actors seemed to have a problem with voice projection as they appeared to be screaming their lines most of the time.

I left the theater feeling satisfied. Dulaang UP's "The Winter's Tale" was a good play and people ought to watch more plays like it. If plays aren't really your thing, it's not too late to acquire a taste for them. After all, that's always better than marching off to the cinema and losing a few brain cells over a stupid flick.

Join Nickelodeon's obstacle courses at Rockwell

NICKELODEON, the world's leading TV channel for kids, stages the first-ever "Nick Knockout" in the Philippines on Aug. 19 at the Rockwell Club Tennis Courts in Rockwell Center, Makati City.

This unique competition, set in the tradition of Nickelodeon's award-winning games and sports shows like "Legends of the Hidden Temple," "Double Dare" and "Global Guts," is a colorful; fun-filled adventure that promises to bring lots of thrills and spills to both contestants and audience alike.

Kids from all over the country will get the opportunity to compete in obstacle courses that'll test their wits, skills, agility and imagination in games involving hanging monsters, pogo sticks, soapbox cars and lots more.

"Kids are going to have the most fun ever taking part and watching 'Nick Knockout.' They'll have the chance to get down and dirty and compete 'Nick' style," said Christine Leo-McKerrow, vice president for channel operations and brand management of Nickelodeon Asia.

Filled with loads of interactive Nick-style games, Marbels candies, special appearances by Tommy and Chuckie from "Rugrats," as well as some surprise sports personalities, "Nick Knockout" will be a day of cool Nick prizes and excitement for kids of all ages.

To take part in "Nick Knockout" as contestants, kids need to answer the question: "Who is your favorite sports star and why?" Send entries to "Nick Knockout," P.O. Box 12500, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City, or e-mail Nickknockout@nickphilippines.com. All entries should reach Nickelodeon by Aug. 5.

Four kids will be chosen to win an all-expense-paid trip to Manila to participate in the "Nick Knockout." He or she will even get to choose a friend to bring along. Four additional kids will be selected from the audience on the day of the event itself to complete a total of eight teams for the competition.

Tickets can be claimed on Aug. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at the Nick booth at Rockwell Center. One ticket will be given for each request but additional tickets can also be obtained with the redemption of a Marbels wrapper (one ticket per wrapper, subject to a maximum of four per person). Tickets will be available while stocks last, on a first-come, first-served basis.

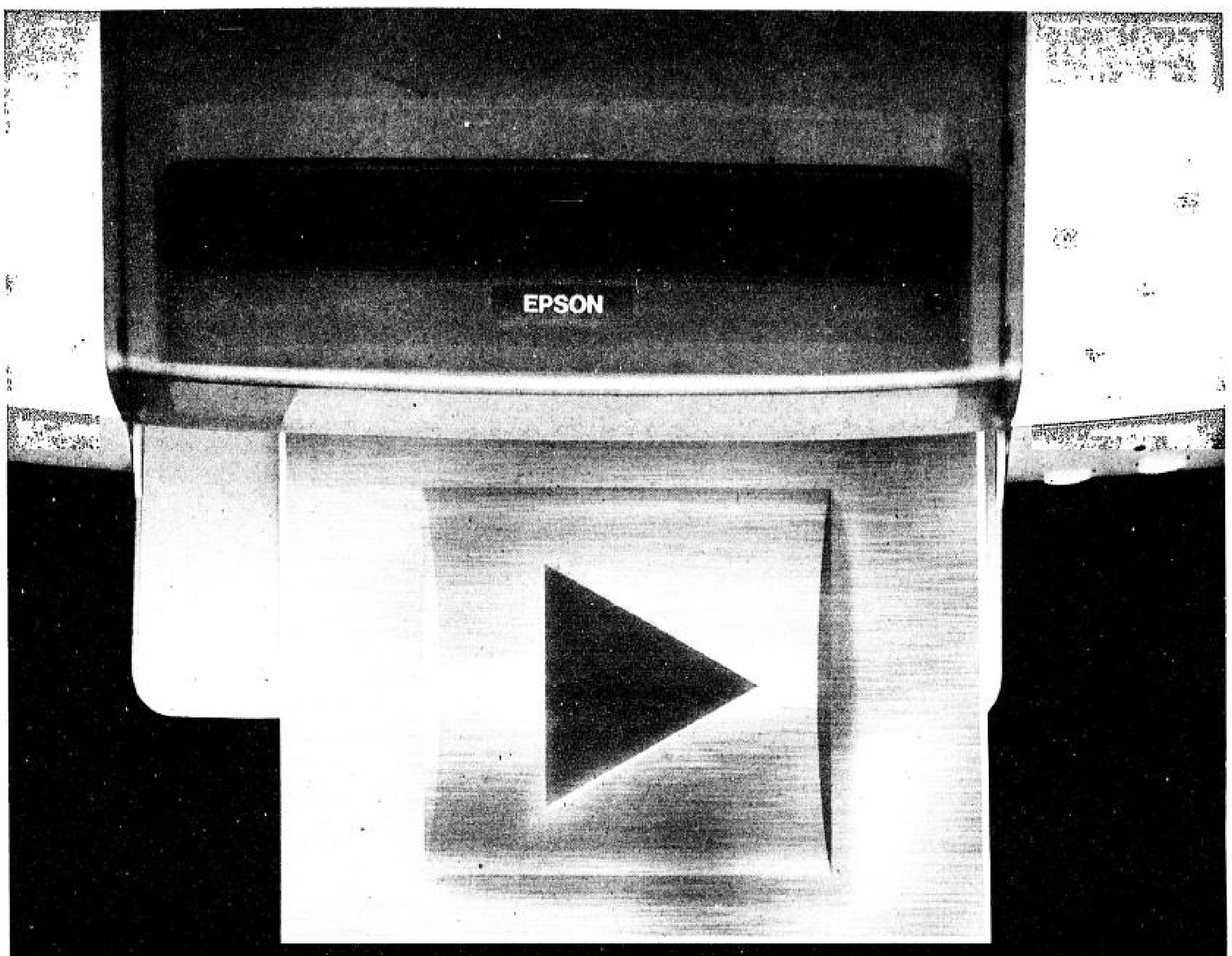
Peta opens bimonthly playwrights forum

THE PHILIPPINE Educational Theater Association Playwrights Development Program (Peta-PDP) is inviting aspiring and established playwrights to join their bimonthly Writers Bloc sessions, which are held every other Sunday at the Peta Office, 61 Lantana St., Bgy. Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, QC, 2-5 p.m., starting Aug. 5. Sessions are free.

The Peta Writers Bloc is a forum wherein many of Peta's stage productions are born. Participants share their written works with the group in a very relaxed and freewheeling atmosphere. New, aspiring writers and awarded veterans get to learn from each other. Seasoned and award-winning names as Lisa Magtoto, Nicolas Pichay, Rody Vera, Rene Villanueva and Jun Lana have been honed through these sessions.

Interested participants may have their existing works read, or may just listen and participate in the sessions for inspiration on new works. Every year, selected plays shared in these sessions are mounted in a laboratory production by the Kalinangan Ensemble, the performing arm of Peta.

Call Peta at 410-0822 or 724-9637, or Rody Vera at 551-0823 or e-mail rodyv@mac.com.



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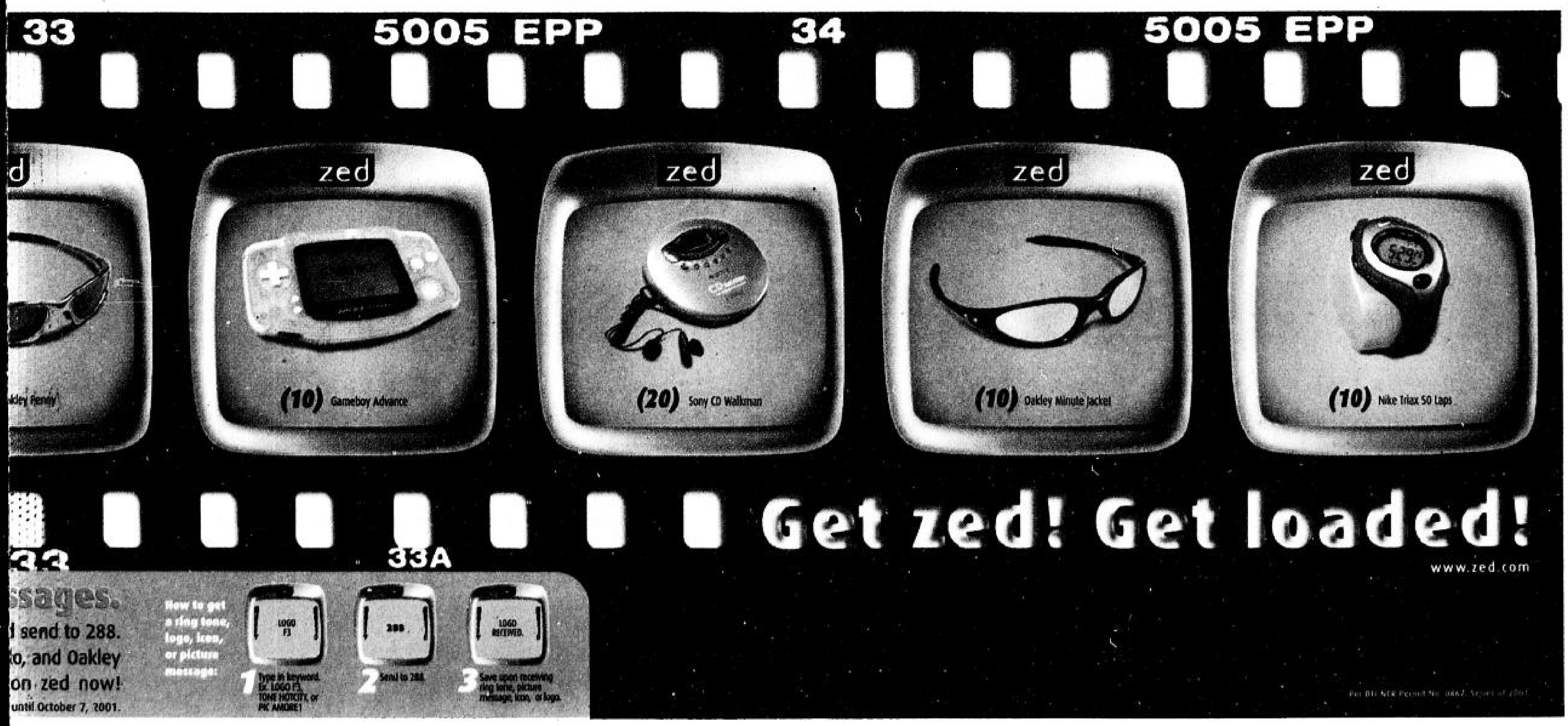

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Nokia 3330: For the WAP and game freak

Price: P9,490

I HAD a dilemma a few months back whether to buy the 3310 or the 6210. I was torn, of course, and I ticked off almost all of the cell phone dealers I approached (WAP or games? WAP or games?). I ended up with the 6210 because I was after the memory of the phone, too. I was able to persuade my sister to buy a 3310 a month after so I can borrow her phone from time to time.

The 3330, the newest addition to the 33 series, for me is in between the 6210 and the 3310. As the WAP and phone games junkie of the bunch, I asked Pam right away if I could borrow the 3330 as my buddy for two weeks. I was excited, of course, a normal reaction when you have a new phone. As soon as it was fully charged, the first thing I did was check out the game they've been proudly advertising, "Bumper." It's a fun pin ball game but I still prefer Space Impact. The 3330 ad with the guy playing with his phone and forgetting his date beside him is very true. The games can be addicting for game lovers.

The 3330 is also WAP-friendly. The display is bigger than the 6210. I tried to check out the game packs from Globe since WAP is about P2 a minute. I didn't have the patience to wait for everything to load but I managed to play "Hangman" a bit. But I still prefer the phone games.

The 3330 is the perfect phone for those who love phone games and who want a good WAP phone for a reasonable price in one. But for those who are after the memory of both phone book and messages (without spending money in MyGlobe) and those who want to show off their phones, sorry, the 3330 isn't for you. The 3330 only has a 100-phone book memory and it looks exactly like the 3310 with a better case color.

As I put the 3330 back into the box, I muttered, "See you in a couple of months" after I have starved and saved enough dough to get one. Hmm, one more game won't hurt.

Tammy David

Siemens C30: No frills function

Price: P3,790

SO readers will know where I'm coming from when I review the Siemens C30, I've had my Nokia 3210 for about two years now. I was given the Siemens C30 to test and use for one week. I was not provided a manual, however, and I considered it a test of the phone's user-friendliness if I could figure it out on my own.

The C30 is light but does not have a keypad lock, which became a problem because I'd put it in my shirt pocket or bag, only to retrieve it turned on when I'd turned it off and vice-versa. The batteries (two rechargeable AA) recharge in roughly about an hour and last for about two days.

It has a red light display that is annoying and becomes glaring and painful to the eyes in dark areas or in the evening. The signal was clear although the metal earpiece occasionally rattled when I spoke.

The most difficult thing to get used to was the two-liner display as opposed to Nokia 3210's four-liner display. First of all, one has to scroll through the messages to find the new one because the phone does not indicate which messages have not yet been read.

I have to admit I couldn't go through a whole week of using it because it was too inconvenient for me to read messages through the two-liner display, especially when important messages came in all at the same time. Also, if you fail to send a message, it is erased and you have to type it again.

Other than my preference for bigger displays, the Siemens C30 is a no-frills, functional phone. It is light and has a clear signal, with no noticeable delays for SMS. Just make sure you turn off the option to save outgoing messages as it will fill up your message quota in no time flat.

By the way, it has three games, which I didn't even bother trying to play since I didn't play games on my old phone either.

Walter Ang

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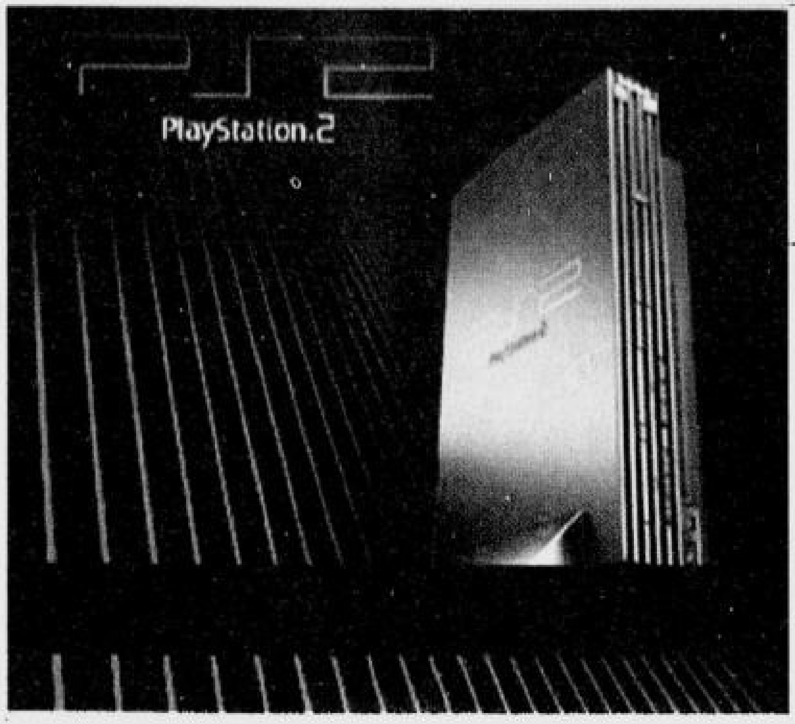

The blue ribbon in video games goes to the PlayStation 2

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PLAYSTATION 2

Welcome to the decline of outdoor recreation

By Alexis Tioseco
2bU! Correspondent

PONG was the stuff. It was *the* game back in the day. Hours and hours of joy could be derived from the simple pleasure of watching a plain white ball limp back and forth across a black canvas. The idea of having your own private arcade at home was absurd... and cool, and we all bit in. Pong was the game. Atari—the system behind it—was avant-garde, and kids were fulfilled.

Video games have evolved in amazing ways since the advent of Pong, and the baton has been passed through the hands of Nintendo, Super Nintendo and Sega and Sega Genesis, PlayStation, Nintendo 64 and Sega Dreamcast. What system sits atop the podium today? The PlayStation 2. And this is what you want.

The gameplay

The PlayStation 2 gameplay is to die for. Whether it be an RPG such as the Zelda-like Dark Cloud, or an Electronics Arts sports title like Madden 2001, the graphics and gameplay are unparalleled in today's market. Madden 2001 (football) is a perfect example. This game is revolutionary.

The flow of the game and the 3D contours of the body are far more realistic than any of the past series. I tried out the Metal Gear Solid: Sons of Liberty playable demo and, trust me, it'll have you drooling at just how awesome it is.

How do the graphics come out the way they do? The PlayStation 2, at optimal levels, can process 16 million polygons per second. In order to get an idea of how awesome this figure is, the PS1 can process only about 350,000. The PlayStation 2 boasts a 300 MHz CPU, a much faster rate than the PS1, which translates into less loading time, and a faster saving time. But isn't your Pentium III 800 MHz faster? No. The PS2 has a 128-bit Emotion Engine, the first chip of its kind. Though it may change soon, there is currently no other mass-market computer technology for sale that can come close to its power. This chip is responsible for both processing information and sending it over a 128-bit Bus. In comparison, the Sega Dreamcast does not have any true 128-bit components.

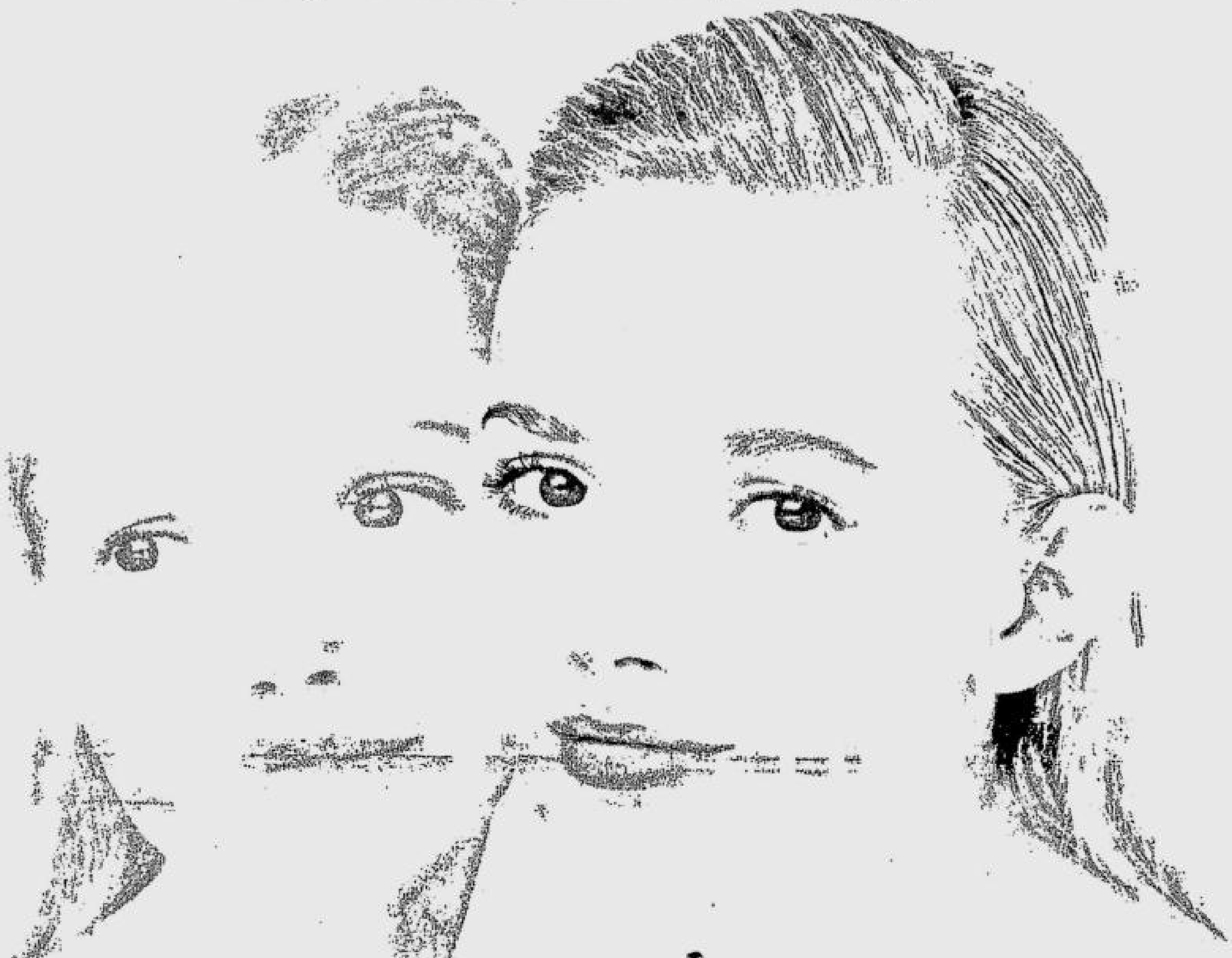
One of the lures of the PS1 was the incredible number of games available, catering to all tastes. Browsing online, you'll find thousands and thousands of PS1 titles you'd never even heard off before. The PS2 is steadily catching up. Games for the PS2 are coming out more and more rapidly, and many companies are already producing their second edition of certain games for the platform.

DVD-ROM

One of the best features of the PS2 is its ability to play DVD-ROM abilities. A low-end DVD player will cost at least P11,000 in local stores, which is just about half the price of the PS2 unit. It is a tricky situation though, because of the region coding on DVD movies. If you buy the American version of the PS2, your unit will only play Region 1 DVDs (North America), and if you buy the Japanese, well, you're in a tough situation, because your unit can only play Region 2 DVDs, which are very difficult to find. Though it is not recommended to tamper with your system, it is possible to find mod chips that can convert your players to play movies of all regions. The picture quality when

WELCOME/ p.E2

ESTĒE LAUDER



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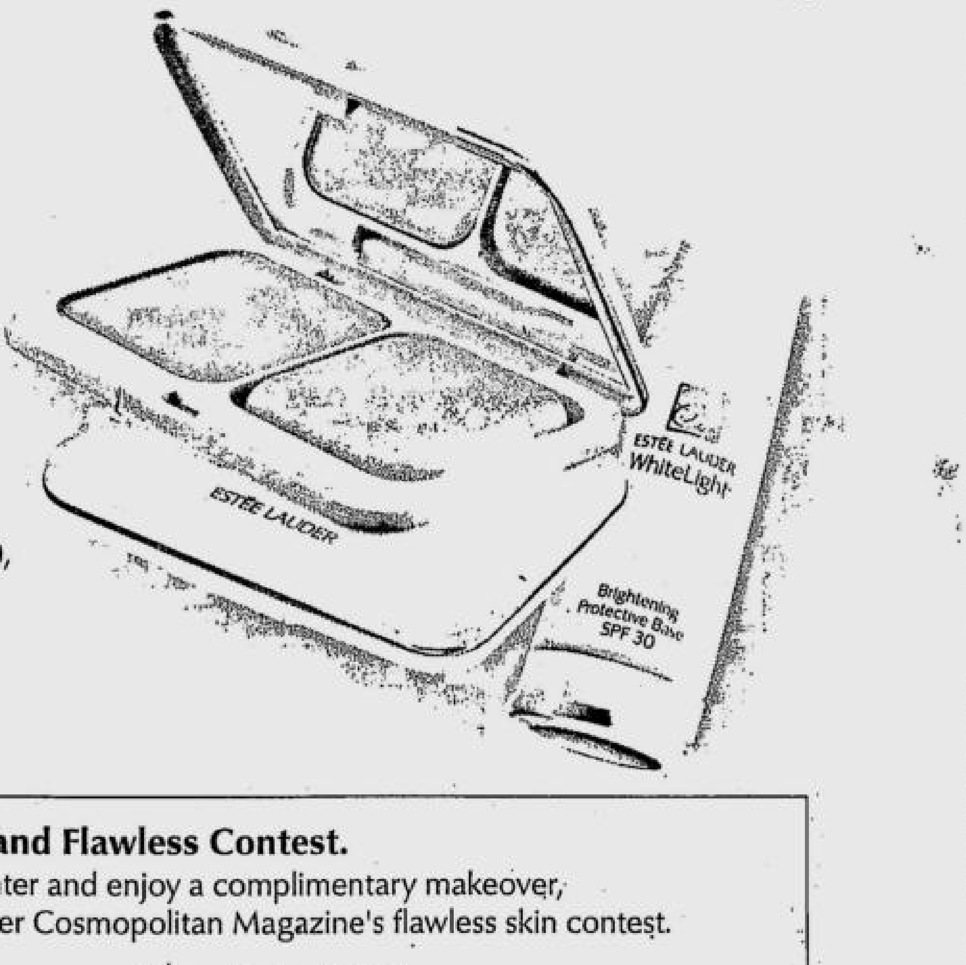

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2426, Series of 2001

Welcome to the decline of outdoor recreation

(From page E1)

watching a DVD on your PS2 is excellent, as is expected from DVDs. It would take someone extremely fluent in various DVD players to spot the difference between watching on the PS2 and a normal DVD player. It was recently announced that there would be a special PS2 version of the DVD for "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within," featuring, along with a host of other amazing options, the ability to choose on the fly what angle you like to watch the movie.

For Gamers, a DVD-ROM means highly advanced graphics for specific PS2 titles. Certain games will be DVD-ROM games, meaning the graphics and game play will be much richer than a regular game, but for those that stick to pirated games, you're out of luck because, as of the moment, they don't make pirated versions of DVD-ROM games. Included in the list of DVD-ROM titles is the highly anticipated Metal Gear Solid: Sons of Liberty.

Compatibility

One of the best things about the PS2 is its compatibility. Sony is currently making an array of attachments for the PS2. By the end of the year, the following will be available—keyboard, mouse, modem and 30GB HDD. In backward compatibility, the PS2 can also play PS1 games, though without improvement in the picture or sound quality.

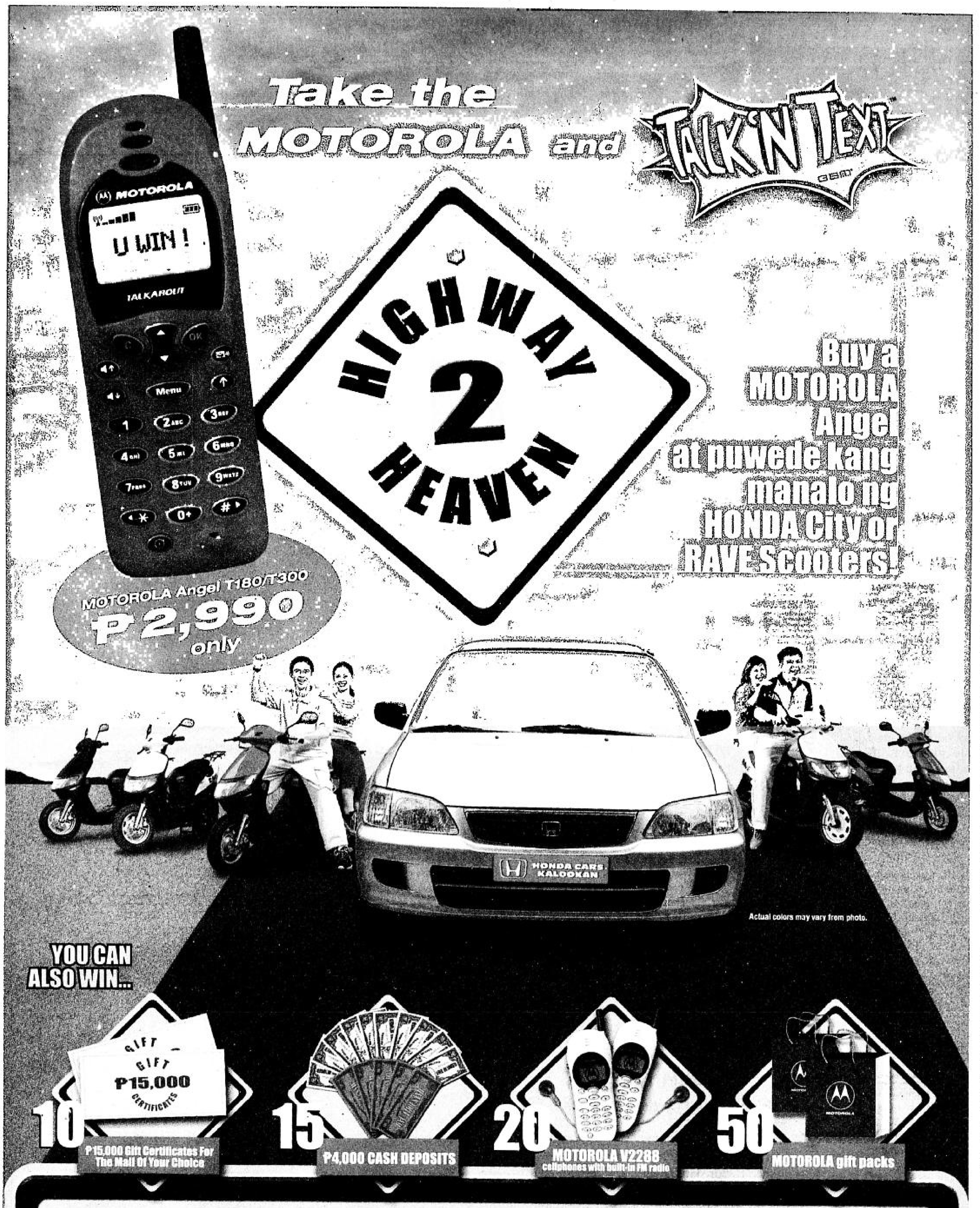
PS2 vs X-Box

How the PS2 will measure up against the X-Box is the question on a lot of people's minds. Early comparisons of the hardware say that the X-Box may very well put the PS2 to shame, beating out in almost all categories, but the reality of the play of the actual system remains to be seen. The Microsoft X-Box is scheduled for a November release, though delays are not uncommon in the gaming business.

Final analysis

The PS2 is the finest gaming system on the market. With its 128-bit Emotion Engine, DVD-ROM, growing amount of titles and compatibility, there is no platform in the market that compares. Be it movies or games, for instant entertainment, the PS2 is *the* system. But hold your breath, come November we may have another article to write.

E-mail the author at eggy_tioseco@hotmail.com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MOTOROLA

IT'S RAINING MEN! Cody Moreno, talent manager Lyn Tamayo, Seventeen PR Treena Cueva, Marc Nelson, Geoffrey Briz, Toffee Calma, JM Rodriguez

SEVENTEEN'S SURVIVORS. Maya Calica, Lilie Bose, Joel Klugh of Survivor I, Maddy Madrid and Margie Estrella

Magazine anniversary has '80s theme

SEVENTEEN Phils. celebrated its first anniversary and launched MTV VJ Donita Rose as its first Filipino cover girl on July 21.

The Dish at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell became a glitzy '80s TV dance studio with Donita Rose, Bianca Araneta and Tone Wijangco at the helm. Guests came in '80s-inspired ensembles.

NBK DJ Roman Mojica and DJ Chan de la Calzada played a mix of pop music and classic '80s dance hits. Barbie's Cradle sang cuts from their latest album, "Music from the Buffet Table," with popular tracks like "Shiny Red Balloon" and "Money for Food."

"Moulin Rouge" meets "Saturday Night Fever" was the theme of the one-of-a-kind fashion show directed by one of the country's premier fashion directors, Robbie Carmona.

There was spray paint, graffiti art, feather boas, gold chains and, yes, even ice cream as fun fashion from the not-so-distant past hit the runway with Manila's hottest models. Featured were clothes from Cinderella, Naf Naf, Sisley, Seventeen Young Company, Esprit, Kookai and British India.

SEVENTEEN'S first Filipina cover busy doing what she does best.

Guests were offered free makeovers by ZA Cosmetics, nail painting by Sally Hansen, hair wraps by Lee Jeans, iced tea by Lipton, coffee concoctions by Seattle's Best and lots of goodies in the Seventeen loot bags.

Seventeen Phils. is published by Summit Media, publisher of nine magazine titles, including licensed Philippine editions of Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, Prevention, FHM and Entrepreneur, as well as original local magazines Candy, Preview and YES!

Baguio party mood not dampened by rains

BY WALTER ANG

BAGUIO City was drenched when 2bU! went to the Philippines' summer capital to join in the fun of the school year's first party. The continuous rain enveloped the city in a lovely mist and the crisp cold air was perfectly appropriate for some serious revelry making. What better time to usher in another year of studying hard and, of course, partying hard?

Bobson Jeans hosted the event, "Assemblage: A Fusion of Fashion and Music," for students and yuppies to kick off the school year. Manolet Tizon, marketing manager of Bobson, met us when we arrived and brought us to the site of the evening's event, Padi's Point.

HENNA tatoo artist Rica Peron in action with a baguio partyphile

Preparations

2bU! hanged out with the crew in the late afternoon as it was setting up for the show.

A few days before the event, the Assemblage production team went around schools to scout for amateur student models for the show. It found suitable candidates at the University of Baguio, University of the Philippines and Saint Louis University. Assisted by Padi's Point owner Alvin Cagungun, the students and Klik Shop Image Models (also students from the same schools) rehearsed for the fashion show.

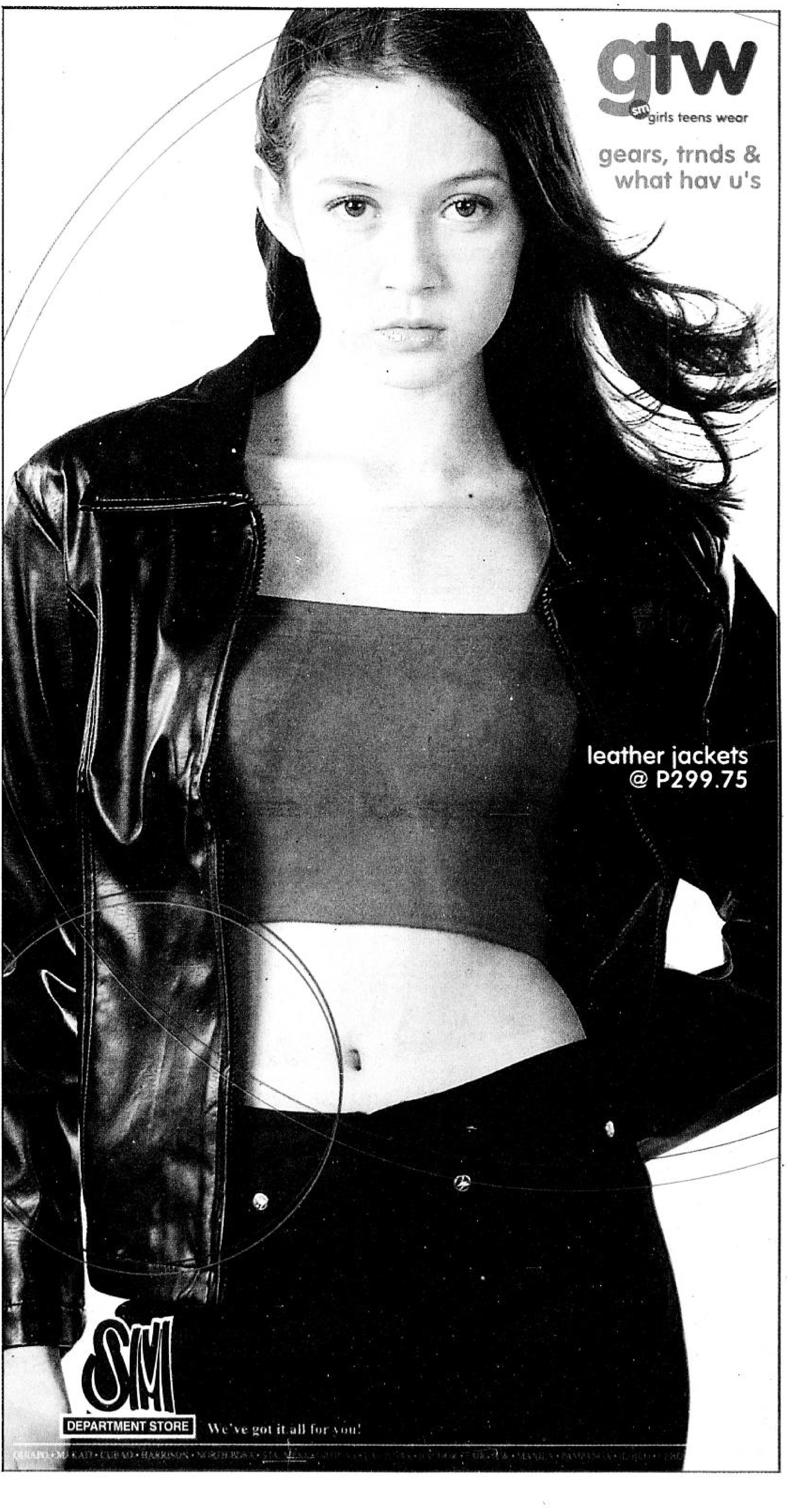
The party scene

The 2bU! people were impressed by how punctual young Baguio partyphiles were. Despite the rains, they came on time so that by 7 p.m. a line had already formed at the entrance. The venue was packed by the time the party was ready to begin. People were still standing in line outside but could not get in for lack of space.

The Bobson Assemblage fashion show featured different looks young people can adopt for the rest of the school year. Segments featured a wide array of clothes a young, active person could possible want for his/her wardrobe from daily campus ensembles to hip, fun partywear. The show even had a segment called "Academic" with models made to look like school geeks, complete with large, black plastic eyeglasses, but sporting preppy, well-cut outfits.

The end of the fashion show featured the evening's special guest star, actress Ara Mina, who, with Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara, cut the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the new Bobson boutique in the Baguio Center Mall earlier that day.

BAGUIO'S finest in the show's finale.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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Say it with sugar and spice and everything nice and a bit outrageous

www.sugar3.com

BY JASON DOPLITO
2bU! Correspondent

ARE you tired of the usual online greeting cards? Do you flinch at the cheesy lines of these cards? Are you looking for something that could actually make you laugh? Are you sick of my questions and would rather that I get straight to the point?

Well, Sugarqube Greetings is just the thing for you. It's a free online greeting cards site that lets you have hours of viewing pleasure. Here's why sugarqube works: The cards are animated, free and easy to download! Compared with other virtual cards that are all graphics and words, sugarqube's actually have storylines or images that move. For example, the most popular card, Dirty Dance, has a dirty old man gyrating in his red trunks in the recipient's honor.

My current favorite, Let's Get Together, features Mr. Cow and Mr. Kangaroo, former best buddies, having a lonely drink in their respective bars. They contemplate on the fun things they used to do together, like having barbecue. After their drink, they coincidentally bump into each other and they relive their memories of each other! Then the greeting that flashes at the end of the animation says, "Happy Friendship Day! Let's get together some time!"

Speaking of Friendship Day, which is tomorrow, according to this site, there are three other "sugarcards" that carry the theme. So start dispensing these cards to your best buddies.

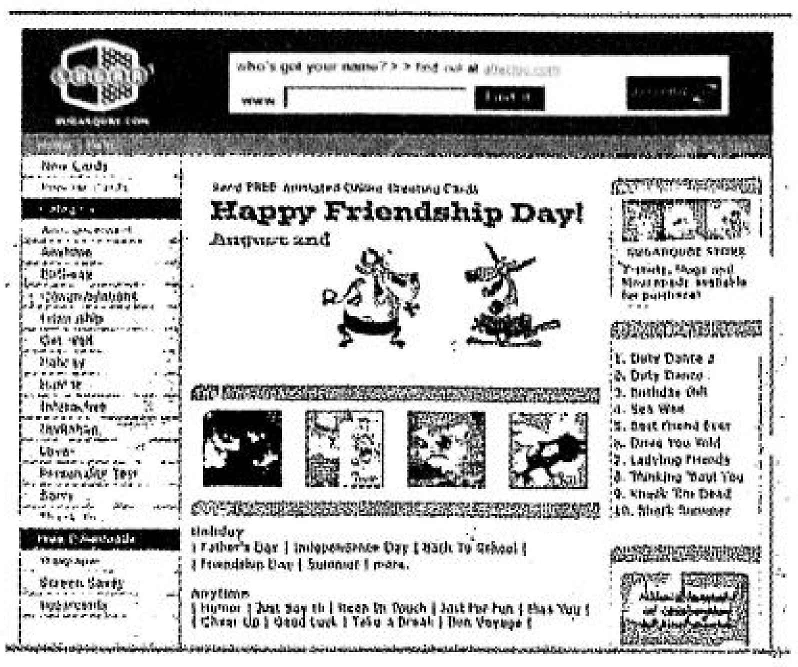
Just how do you do that? Very easy. Just click on a card and wait for the animation to download. Then watch the preview unfold. If you like it then click on "personalize your card." You'll then give out some basic information like the sender's and recipient's names and e-mail addresses, as well as the message that you want to attach to your card. Once again, view the preview, then click send. In about a minute, your friend will receive your card. Fast, huh?

What's also nice is that you'll receive an e-mail from sugarqube informing you whether your friend has viewed your card or not.

Now, you don't have to worry about membership. You don't have to register with the site or even subscribe to their newsletter. It's absolutely commitment-free! The only requirement is that you and your friends have the Macromedia Flash Player 5.0 installed in your computer so that you may view the cards correctly. If you don't have that, then just go directly to the site and you may download it right there.

As for the other categories of cards, this site has loads of them. Aside from the usual Birthday, Get Well, Congratulations, Sorry, Invitation, Holiday; Thank You and, of course, Love cards, sugarqube has the Humor, Interactive and Personality Cards. The Interactive cards feature games like Turkey Shootout, Ten Questions and Easter Maze. So you just don't show to your friends that you remember them, you're actually considerate enough to offer them games! The Personality Cards just freaked me and my friends out, because their interpretations are so true. Particularly, the Egg Test where you pick your answers instinctively: Where would you place an egg? On a treetop, water, grass or in your pocket? An interpretation of your personality would depend on your answer.

Aside from cards, sugarqube also offers wallpapers and screensavers for your desktop. Definitely, don't fail to visit this site. As the owners of this site say, "Our most important goal is for *you* to enjoy our online greeting card service, as we hope our cards make you smile, laugh, or just make your day a little brighter." And with every visit, that mission is definitely accomplished.



Send FREE Animated Online Greeting Cards

Happy Friendship Day!

SUGARQUBE STORE

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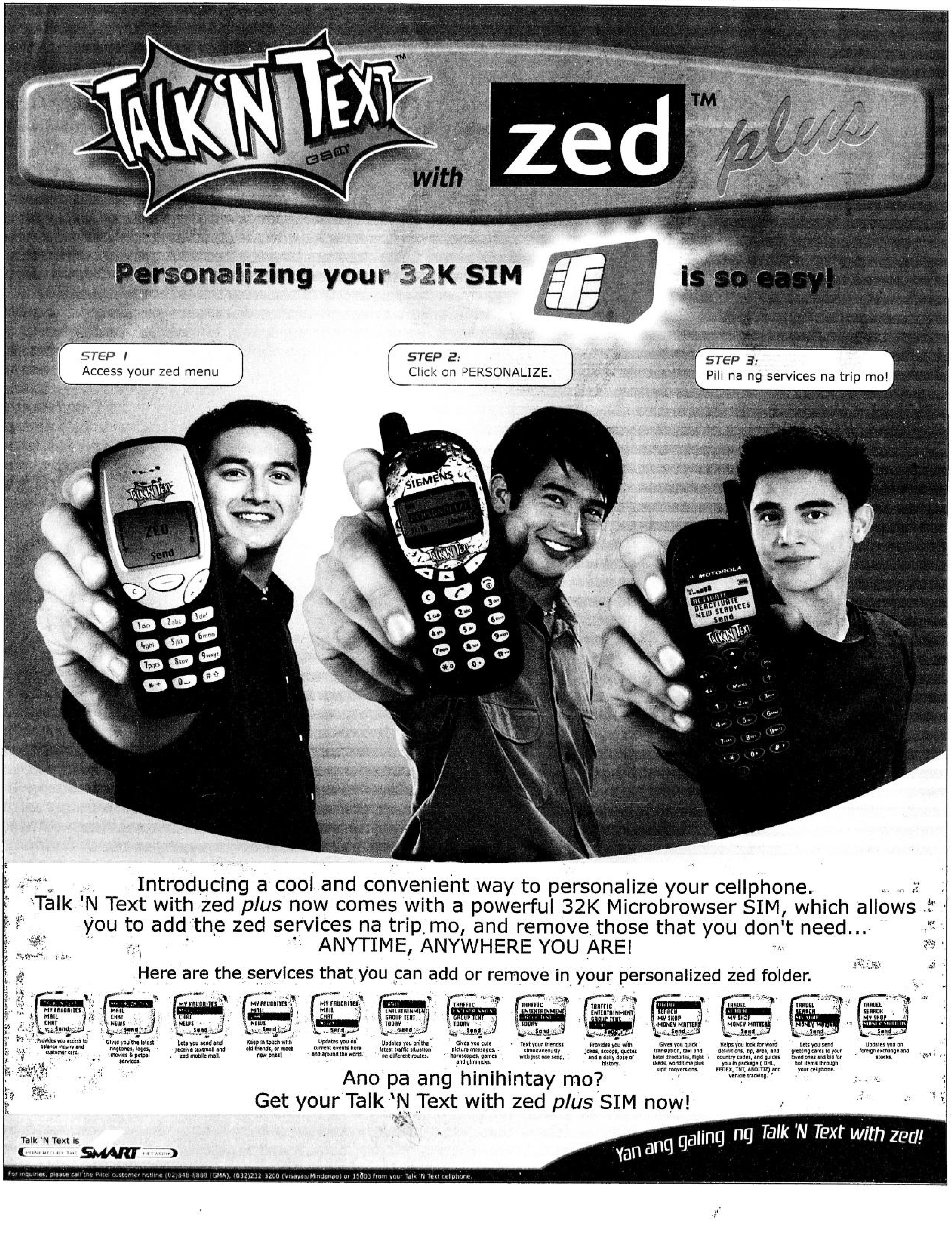
2. Dirty Dance
3. Birthday Girl
4. Sea Wee
5. Best Friend Ever
6. Drive You Wild
7. Ladylng Friends
8. Thinking 'Bout You
9. Knock The Dead
10. Shark Summer

Holiday
| Father's Day | Independence Day | Back To School |
| Friendship Day | Summer | more.

Anytime
| Humor | Just Say It | Keep In Touch | Just For Fun | Miss You |
| Cheer Up | Good Luck | Take A Break | Bon Voyage |



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150 YEARS THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS Celebrating 150 years of Banking Leadership

Philippine banking's best, only from Philippine banking's first

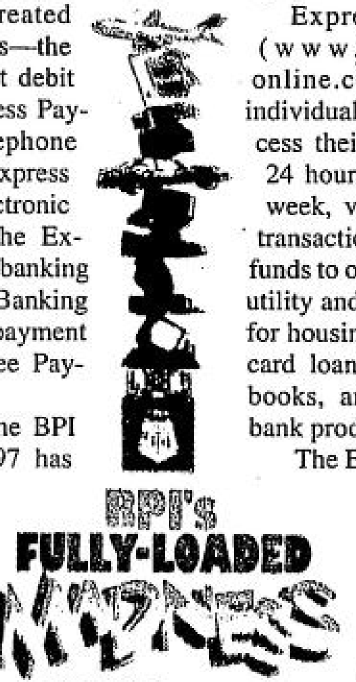
THE BANK of the Philippine Islands reaches the pinnacle of banking excellence as it marks its 150th year today.

The oldest financial institution in the country and Southeast Asia, BPI has constantly blazed a trail of innovations for the industry to follow.

In recent years, it continued to be at the forefront of technological innovations, delivering a wide array of superior products and services.

In 1981, BPI installed the first automated teller machine or ATM.

Since then, this innovative spirit that created major breakthroughs—the issuance of the first debit card with the Express Payment System, telephone banking with the Express Phone, 24-hour electronic banking through the Express Teller, offsite banking with the Express Banking Centers, and bills payment with the Check-Free Payment Facility.



The launch of the BPI Call Center in 1997 has enabled customers to do their banking transactions, and even apply for housing and auto loans, anytime and anywhere, by simply dialing 89-100.

This year, BPI launched internet banking. Its openness to embrace change has led it to build new internet-based operating platforms, such as BPI ExpressLink, BPI Express-On-line, BPI ExpressBills, and BPI Trade.

ExpressLink offers corporate clients comprehensive cash management facilities.

Express Online (www.bpiexpress-online.com) enables individual depositors to access their deposit account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, view balances and transaction details, transfer funds to other accounts, pay utility and other bills, apply for housing, auto and credit card loans, reorder checkbooks, and inquire about bank products and services.

The Express Bills facility allows efficient billing and payments.

BPI Trade is the bank's internet stock trading platform. It allows clients, both local and overseas, to access the Philippine Stock Exchange and to also buy fixed income securities like Treasury Bills.

BPI has also broken new ground with the opening of BPI Direct, the country's first phone and internet bank, and the introduction of mobile banking with WAP technology.

Another electronic innovation is BPI Express Cash, the first electronic cash card, a pre-loaded cash card which makes shopping and dining easier and convenient.

The country's most technologically advanced bank has, indeed, transformed the landscape of banking in the Philippines.

BPI's history is a chronology of Philippine banking itself.

In 1851, the bank's forerunner, *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II*, commenced operations as the first banking institution in the country and Southeast Asia.

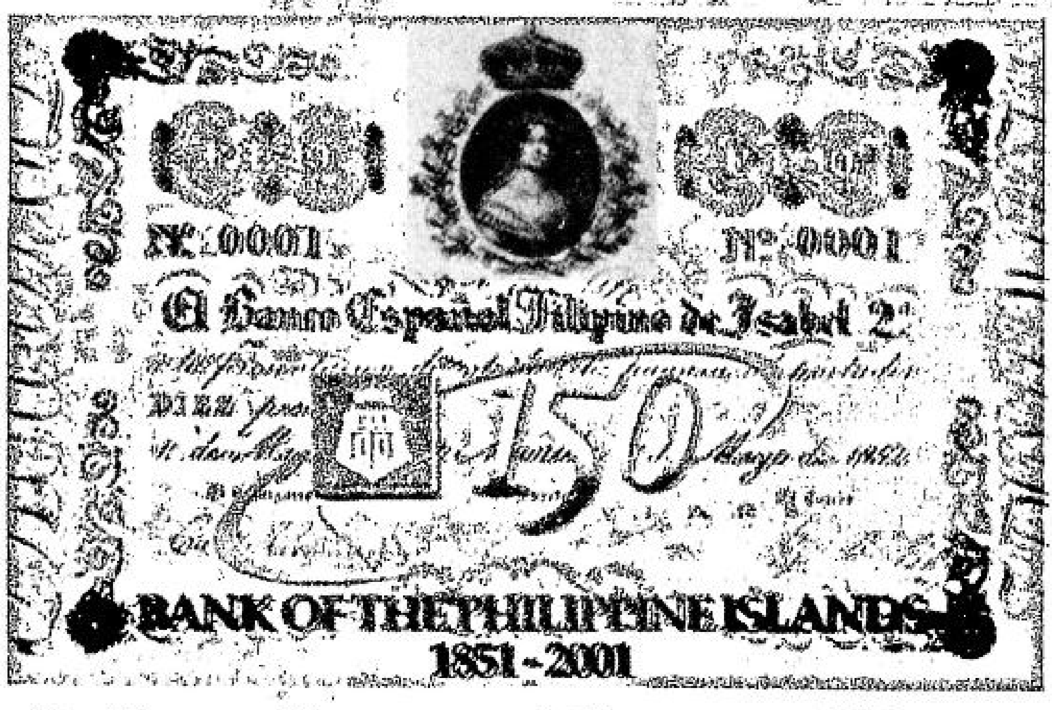
BPI DIRECT
BPI ExpressBills

In 1852, the bank issued the first bank note in the Philippine Islands. Called *pesos fuertes*, it meant "strong pesos". It bore the portrait of the woman for whom the bank was named – Isabela II.

BPI pioneered branch banking with the opening of the first branch in 1897, a time when the Philippine revolution against Spain was raging. That branch was in Iloilo.

In 1912, the bank was officially renamed the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The pioneer in Philippine banking created a strong impact among Filipino communities when it financed the first railway system, the first telephone system, the first electric utility, and the first steamship service.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El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2ª
150
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
1851 - 2001

Putting a Stamp on 150 years of History

This year's anniversary festivities kicked off last January with the launch of the BPI commemorative stamp. It bears the image of the *Pesos Fuertes* which was issued by BPI as the first paper money in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. BPI earlier held a philatelic exhibit to launch the stamp which was called "A Brief History of Philippine Postage."

BPI'S HEAD OFFICE

A historical landmark

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands, the bank that pioneered banking in 1851, and the National Historical Institute will unveil the BPI Marker in front of its corporate headquarters along Ayala Avenue in Makati City today, August 1.

The unveiling of the BPI Marker is in celebration of a grand milestone in the bank's proud and long history – its 150th founding anniversary.

The oldest bank in the country and in Southeast Asia, BPI has blazed trails to serve the ever-changing needs and demands of the banking public.

A trendsetter in convenience banking, BPI has, over the years, introduced innovations which have capitalized on the use of cutting edge communications technology.

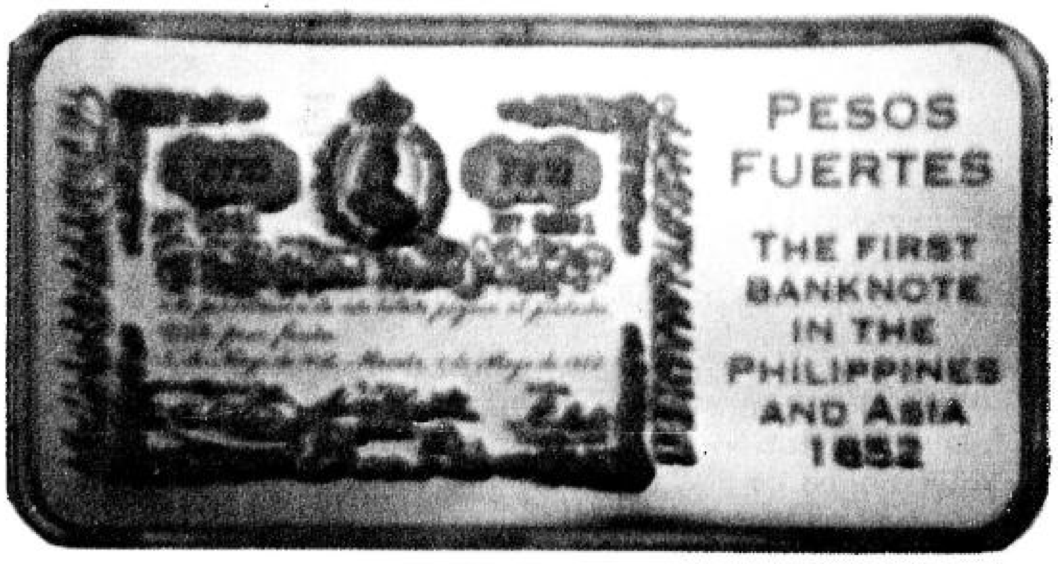
In the local banking community, electronic banking is synonymous to BPI.

The bank is credited for having introduced the automated teller machine or ATM in the country in 1983. BPI since then proved itself first in many ways as it set the standard in electronic and convenience banking.

Among BPI's pioneering efforts were the financing of the first train service, the first telephone system, the first electric power utility and the first steamship service in the country.

As it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, BPI renews its commitment to continue placing quality, excellence, and innovation at the core of its operations.

In an era of fact-paced advances in computer and communications technology, BPI is committed, more than ever, to embrace new technology and lead the electronic revolution in banking.



Presenting a historical treasure chest

ARTS and culture afficionados eager to view the country's history from a financial standpoint should visit the Bank of the Philippine Islands' (BPI) numismatic exhibit "A Brief History of Philippine Currency" at the Ayala Museum which begins on August 17.

The exhibit, to be held with the Philippine Numismatics and Antiquarian Society, will feature pre-Hispanic gold barter rings, Spanish-period bank notes and coins.

To be held simultaneously with the coins and currency exhibit is another treasure trove from Philippine history.

The exhibit "A Glimpse of the Best" will also take place at the Ayala Museum.

"A Glimpse of the Best" features Philippine prints and paintings from the BPI collection, and BPI memorabilia. On exhibit are paintings by Juan Luna and works by National Artists Fernando Amorsolo, Napoleon Abueva, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Vicente Manansala, Hernando Ocampo, Cesar Legaspi, Arturo Luz, and Ang Kiukok. Some of these items will be exhibited for the first time.

The memorabilia segement of the exhibit contains rare documents such as a large clothbound transaction book from 1855. There are also old bank notes issued by the bank and prewarcollector's items like time deposit certificates and manager's checks.

BEST TO HAVE COLLECTOR'S TREASURE

The BPI 150th Anniversary Gold and Silver Ingots

PHILIPPINE banking reaches new heights this year as the country's oldest bank marks 150 proud years of financial strength, stability and growth.

Imbued with a heritage of excellence and leadership, the Bank of the Philippine Islands celebrates an extraordinary milestone, having set the pace of banking in the country. For indeed, the history of BPI is a chronology of Philippine banking itself.

To commemorate this special event, BPI has issued a premium collector's item—the BPI 150th Anniversary Ingot, a commemorative coin crafted in gold and in silver. These collector's pieces are minted in two troy ounces of .999 gold or fine silver by the Franklin Mint.

A rare historical piece, the BPI Ingot is the embodiment of the highest standards of banking excellence and BPI's basic principles of integrity and outstanding service. An investment worth keeping, availing of the prized commemorative item is like owning a part of Philippine Banking history.

New Expressbanking kiosk launched

BPI has introduced another innovation in electronic banking, a fully-unmanned kiosk, featuring the Express Teller, Express Online and Express Phone. Visitors of this kiosk can accomplish their transactions through this facility's easy-to-follow instruction guide. Banking in the future has truly come full circle.

The fully-unmanned booth offers three channels of transactions, through the machine, online and the phone.

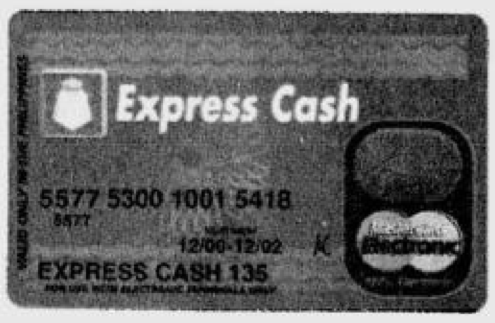
BPI consistently cited by int'l rating agencies

BPI continues to make history as it gains recognition for its record-breaking performance and achievements in the local and regional banking industry.

World-renowned rating agencies and international finance publications have given the bank numerous citations and awards—for financial soundness, banking leadership, and product excellence.

The flurry of achievement awards have come from Euromoney, the Asia Investment Research team of US-based Goldman Sachs, Global Finanace, Watson Wyatt (Phils.), Finance Asia, Far Eastern Economic Review, and Asia Money, among others. The accolades have proven only one thing—BPI remains consistently ahead, in its products and services, living up to its reputation of unparalleled leadership.

Expresscash is best e-card in Asia–Pacific



The BPI Express Cash card was adjudged the "Best Electronic Card for 2000" at the recent Annual MasterCard Asia-Pacific User Conference in Australia. The Express Cash card bested several other entries in this category for the entire Asia-Pacific region.

BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala, BPI senior executive vice president and BPI Family Bank president Aurelio Montinola III, BPI senior vice president Nita Claravall, and BPI vice president Tessie Tan accepted the trophy during the launch of the "Fully-Loaded Madness" at the Glorietta. The conference was held in Australia last June.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) launched Express Cash in November 30 last year. It is the first prepaid electronic cash card in the Philippines with widespread use being affiliated with the MasterCard Electronic network with about 20,000 merchants nationwide.

This pre-loaded card is issued for an initial P500 and allows the cardholder to shop, drink and dine without the hassles of cash handling.

All Express Cash cards are personalized with the name of the cardholder printed at the front and his signature at the back. It comes in three colors (blue, red, and yellow) to suit the mood and personality of the individual.

Catch the BPI Express Cash card at the "Fully-Loaded Madness" where it is showcased at the BPI Payment Cards booth.

EXPRES
WINN

THE BEST E-CARD

The BPI Expresscash card was adjudged the "Best Electronic Card for 2000" at the recent Annual Mastercard Asia-Pacific User Conference in Australiaa. The Expresscash card bested other entries in this category for the entire Asia-Pacific region. BPI Senior Executive Vice President Aurelio Montinola III accepted the trophy from MasterCard country head Poch Villa-Real. With him are BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

BPI Card announces new MasterCard e-Credit feature for internet users

BPI Card will be launching a new BPI MasterCard feature called the BPI E-credit account. The BPI E-credit account will be a sub-limit of the BPI MasterCard's regular credit limit. Similar to the Special Installment Plan (SIP) wherein it acts as a separate line for installment purchases only, the BPI E-Credit account will be a line for internet specific purchases only.

E-Credit uses a separate number from an account holder's BPI MasterCard. This means that the regular credit card number and the total credit limit cannot be accessed from the internet and cannot be compromised by potential internet criminals.

Despite this safeguard, E-Credit's shopping convenience is not compromised. Customers can shop online and settle their purchases conveniently with the rest of their BPI MasterCard bills.

E-Credit is flexible. Customers who wish to pay lower interest rates on their internet purchases can transfer their E-Credit balance of at least P5,000 to their SIP limit. This allows customers to enjoy more affordable interest and free-up their E-Credit for new purchases.

The E-Credit card is designed solely for shopping on the internet. It cannot be presented for over the counter payments.

To date, no major card issuer can claim that they are the first to issue a virtual account in the industry.

express teller
express teller
express teller

Whether you're on your way to that long-awaited shopping spree...

that sudden business trip...

or even your honeymoon abroad...

Maestro Cirrus.

express teller
international
3185 0036 82
RAMON FRANCISCO

Don't forget to bring your BPI Express Teller International card.

Accepted in over 500,000 Cirrus ATMs in 102 countries worldwide.

You don't have to worry about carrying too much cash or buying traveller's cheques. You can simply withdraw cash in the currency of whatever country you're in. That's because the Express Teller International card can be used to withdraw in over 500,000 Cirrus ATMs. You're sure to find an ATM just about anywhere, anytime you need cash.

If you want to change your regular Express Teller Card to the Express Teller International, do it now! We're waiving the card replacement fee only from July 23 to September 30, 2001. Just visit your branch of account.

The BPI Express Teller International - fully loaded wherever you are!

For more details, call 89-100 (press '0' to speak to a phonebanker)
or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

Still haven't gotten an Express Teller International card? If you're touring Singapore or Thailand, bring your regular Express Teller Card. You can still withdraw in the local currency at over 900 DBS ATMs in Singapore and Thailand.

150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

BPI Asset Management a full house of investment products

BACKED by more than 150 years of money management experience, and with a seasoned team of highly trained fund managers, BPI's ASSET MANAGEMENT Group fortifies its leadership and dominance in the local Asset Management Industry with over P100Mn in assets under management; leading in all 3 sectors while accounting for over 50% of the Employee Benefits Fund (EBF) business. As an Industry leader in the EBF business, BPI Asset Management believes in providing a time-tested and reliable fund management service with its conservative long-term investment stance designed to provide utmost protection for its beneficiaries, the employees; consistently ensuring that the basic risk and return investment principle is always in check. With this basic formula, BPI Asset Management is able to enjoy a consistent above average investment performance, across all accounts managed, which performance has now been evolving as an Industry Performance Benchmark. Accounting for over 100 accounts of a total of 170 participating employee benefits plans managed by a total of eleven (11) institutions, in a periodic actuarial and consultancy firm investment return survey, BPI Asset Management has been posting a consistent above-average investment performance representative of its adherence to the basic tenets of fund management.

Aside from Employee Benefits Fund management, BPI Asset Management carries the widest range of full-service Investment Options ranging from —Trust Administration, Segregated Portfolio Management, Employee Benefits Fund Administration and Personal Wealth Management, to Common Trust Funds (CTFs). These products are designed to provide one with a comprehensive solutions approach to an investor's growing sophistication and complexity of investment requirements.

In line with the Bank's tradition of leadership, BPI Asset Management continues to innovate on powerful customer-driven investment products with its first TAX FREE long-term investment product for RETAIL clients called the BPI IRA (BPI Individual Retirement Account) to be available in the market soon. As the product name suggests, BPI IRA is designed for the retirement needs of an individual investor, but may likewise serve to address other longterm requirements such as saving for the education of your children, investing for your dream house, or simply securing your future financial needs. With BPI IRA, you don't need a large amount of money to avail of the services of a professional fund manager; all you need to do is transfer your idle funds into BPI IRA and sit back until it earns tax free income!

BPI Foundation donates 1.3 gigabytes of Philippine history

IN HONOR of its 150th year, BPI donated several sets of the CD-ROM reissue of Emma Helen Blair and James Robertson's "The Philippine Islands" to public schools and libraries in the coutry through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) and the National Library.

A much-referred to work, "The Philippine Islands" became the "bible" of scholars and researchers that want to go beyond what is offered in popular textbooks. Since the supply of the book was scarce—due to its prohibitive price and destruction of a number of copies during World War II—few people practically knew or even heard of it.

Credit modern technology—BPI itself—to rescue "The Philippine Islands" from impending obscunity and extinction. In its CD-ROM version, Blair and Roberston's volumnious work is compressed into two discs storing a total of 1.3 gigabytes of rich historical information.

Last June 17, BPI turned over copies of "The Philippine Islands" CD-ROM to DECS Sec. Raul Roco and National Library Asst. Dir. Prudenciana Cruz in ceremonies at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City.

BPI E-Credit, another first from your BPI Card

BPI MasterCard, your fully-charged for value card has once again taken a big leap in introducing to the market the first and only virtual account known as the BPI E-Credit. A credit card facility that makes online shopping virtually easy. It is a feature designed solely for Internet purchases. No need to worry of Internet hackers for the BPI E-Credit account will be a sublimit of the BPI MasterCard's regular credit limit. This will surely give the consumers their well-deserved peace of mind and the convenience right at their own fingertips.

The BPI E-Credit account will be issued through a reference device with information similar to that of a physical card except that it will not bear the following: a MasterCard hologram, a magnetic stripe, a signature panel and embossing. This will prevent the reference device to get presented for over-the-counter credit card payments.

Online transactions may be transferred to SIP (Special Installment Plan) via the Balance Transfer option. Plus, it also gets to earn Frequent User points. Settlement of e-purchases can be done conveniently with the rest of your BPI MasterCard bills.

What makes the BPI E-Credit Account distinct is that, no other major card issuer has developed such a virtual account in the industry. Although others may claim that they have paved the way for payment gateways, still, BPI Card has managed to go beyond the limits and break the barriers between the physical world and cyberspace shopping with the BPI E-Credit Account.

BPI E-Credit Account, only from the Bank of the Philippine Islands, 150 years of innovative banking... 150 years of banking leadership.

Interested customers may call the BPI Expressphone at 89-100, fax their enrollment forms at 898-9499 or simply log on to www.bpiexpressonline.coom/e-credit.

On our 150th Birthday, we're giving you over 150 gifts. And that's just the start.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
presents

THE POWER OF 3
Express Cash
express teller
BPI Express Credit

As BPI celebrates 150 years of banking leadership, our cards give you 3 ways to win great gifts!

SURE DISCOUNTS AND GIFTS FROM OVER 150 MERCHANTS

Shop with your BPI Express Credit, BPI MasterCard, Express Cash or Express Teller's EPS, and get gifts of discounts and special offers from over 150 merchants in more than 700 participating GMMA stores!

PLUS – 150 WINNERS OF WEEKLY CASH SURPRISES!

Whatever BPI Card you use, you're qualified to join the weekly raffles. You may be one of the 150 lucky cardholders to win P 2,000 each!

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF – 3 BIG TRIP PACKAGES TO UNWRAP!

Keep on shopping with your BPI Cards for more chances to win any of the grand raffle prizes – trips to Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore, wrapped with $500 pocket money!

MasterCard

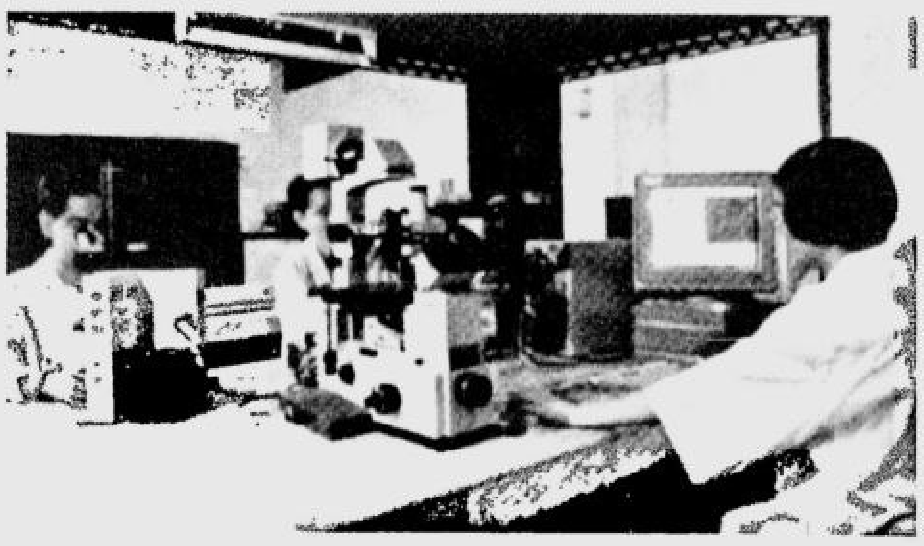
So shop with your BPI Express Credit, BPI MasterCard, Express Cash or Express Teller's EPS from July 23 to September 30, 2001, and get great gifts from BPI!

150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

PHONES, COMPUTERS & GADGETS: Bosch Shop • CK Cellular Corp. • Complink • Excelline Sales Trading Corp • Gemini Photo/Canon • Globotel • PC Domain • Save on Surplus Computers • SM Computer • South Street • The Computer Authority
HOME ACCESSORIES & APPLIANCES: Arrakis Oggetti • Automatic Centre • Avid Sales • Bella Lighting • Bims • FC Home Center • Forty Winks • Homewise Furniture • Houseware Square Inc. • Ilaw ATBP Corp. • MG Infinity • Play & Display • Regalong Pambahay • Restoration • Romance • Sheridan • Sogo • Solar Lamps • Western Marketing
SPECIALTY STORES: AOA Savers • Aquaventure • Beauty Bar • Candles & Scents • Cathay Builders Center • Dermclinic • Demetrala • Dreams Needlearts & Crafts • ECI Golf (Callaway Golf) • Executive Optical • Facial & Body Basic • Flowershop.com.ph • George Optical • Gift Gate • GNC Healthy You • Golden Bookstore • Health Express • Honda Cars-Makati, Inc. • JB Sports • Limuaco Optical • Little Tikes • Magno Optical • Majore Woodworks, Inc. • Nautica Tours & Travel • NBC Dreamland • Novo Skin • Odyssey Records • Office Warehouse • OMF Literature • Optical Works • Page One (El Archivo) • Pillow Talk • Tinctada • Racing Master • Sarabia Optical • SaSEC Phil • Simex Trading Corp. • Skin Perfect Facial Salon • Spectra Audio Video Center • Storeshop • Tai Ping Rugs & Carpets • The Bookmark/Filipino B-store • The Garage Club • The Hardware Depot • The Optical Shop • Tickles • Toby's Sports • Toon Specialist • Toy Kingdom • Toys Unlimited • True Value • Water Colors • White House Optical • YKL Color Lab
FASHION: Accessorio • Alexis Jewelry • American Apparel (Dickies) • Aprtori • Arrow Boutique • B Club • Baghera • Benetton • Buffalo Jeans • Catalog • Claiborne for Men • Clarks-England • Colecciones New York • Coraliz • Cresinin's Boutique • Crystal Carat • De Paul Custom Tailor & Textile • Don Algodon • Dressing Room • Elegantine • EP Lacarcel • Filipinas Alla Co. Inc. • Flagship Stiches & Legends • Flyers • Fossils • Gioielli • Haze Boutique • Janilyn • Joaillier Fine Jewelry • K Jr • Ka'ya Garments • Kashieca • King Philip • La Elegancia • Liz Claiborne • Lucerne • Manel's • Mephisto • Modonella • Mondo Boutique • Monnakiki • Onesimus • Orange Juice • Otto Shoes • Park Lane Jewellers • Sabella • Styletto • Tom's Boutique • Venice Jewellers • Vida Doria
DINING & HOTELS: Adriatico Arms Hotels • Alba Restaurant Español • Amazon Grill • Aqua • Aresi • Avenue Louise • Bangus Restaurant • Basilique Street Café • Beluga Bistro & Pravda Wine • Bibimbop Restaurant • Bistro Lorenzo • Bistro Remedios • Cable Car • Café Adriatico 1900 • Café Adriatico Premiere • Café Havana • Café Rizal • Casa Armas-Makati • Century Park Hotel • Chateau 1771 • Chateau Borghes • City Garden Hotel • Congo Grill • California Pizza Kitchen • Days Hotel Phils. • Don Henrico's-Malate • Dusit Hotel Nikko • East Lake Foodhouse • Elite Seafood • Gerry's Grill • Gourmet Café • Guernica's Restaurant • Holiday Inn Resort • Hotel Intercon-Bahia Restaurant • Il Porticello • Ilustrado Restaurant • Ima Specialty Restaurant • Jade Garden • Kimpura • La Tienda Restaurant • Lolo Dad's Café • Manila Diamond Hotel - Palm Court & Sky Lounge • Manila Sydney Hotels • Mindanao Restaurant & Bar • Minggoy's • Miyabi Japanese Restaurant • Moloyot • My Angel's Kitchen • Nipa Hut • Oakwood Premiere • Old Swiss Inn • Orchid Garden Suites • Padi's Point-Mindanao Ave. • Pan Pacific Hotel • Pancake House • Patio Guernica's • Pazzo • Peking Garden • People's Palace • Tong Yang Hotpot • Port Area Grill • Ratsky • Sala • Salumeria Café • Sidebar Café • Soleil • Southview Seafood • Stratego Café • Studio 1 Bar & Restaurant • Suburbia • Sugarhouse • Sunflower & Sundance • Ten Years After • Tequila Joe's • Thai BBQ/H2O Bar/Macau Restaurant • The Century Seafood Restaurant • The Empress Garden • The Executive Plaza Hotel • The Pacific Wharf Restaurant • Tom Cruz Grill Kamagong • Tropical Forest Restaurant • Via Mare
DEPARTMENT STORE: Fairmart & Plaza Fair • Sta Lucia Dept. Store

See leaflets for complete promo mechanics.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1029 Series of 2001.



Social commitment as a banking activity

BPI Foundation, the bank's social development arm, serves as a channel for philanthropic activities in youth development, and community relations.

BPI's desire to deliver quality service to its clients is matched evenly by its commitment to the less privileged sector of society.

It is the bank's belief that community involvement is an integral part of its business.

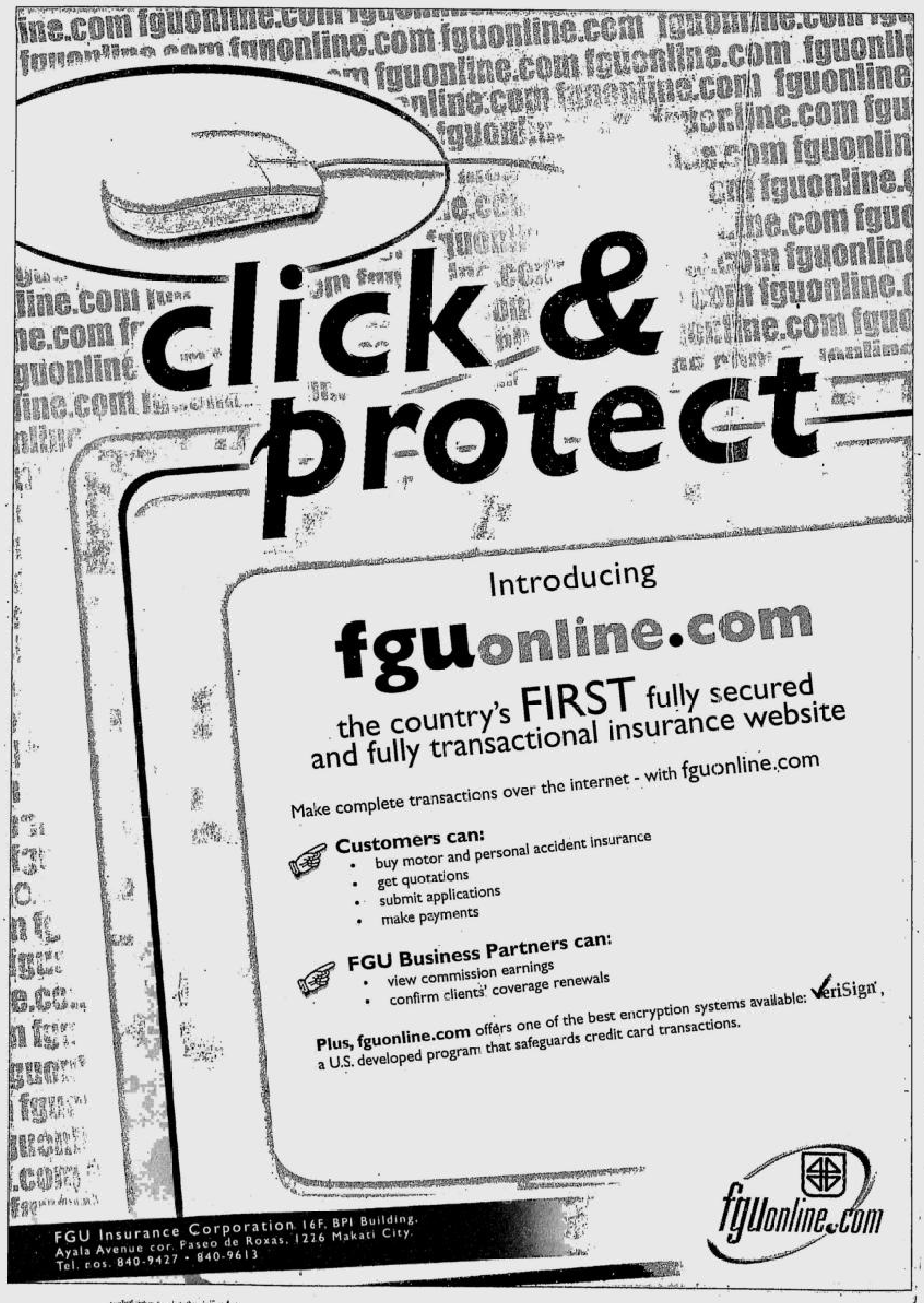
BPI is mindful of its social corporate responsibility to the country and its people, having witnessed the birth of the Philippine Republic, the first in Southeast Asia—sharing its pain as a colony, its difficulties as an occupied territory, and its triumph as a sovereign nation.

The uncertainty of the business environment in past years did not deter BPI from fulfilling its commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Through the BPI Foundation, the bank has remained steadfast in its conviction that science and technology are key drives to national growth and development through the BPI Science awards. Each year, the bank recognizes 30 top science and engineering students in 10 premier universities nationwide. To date, 340 students have received a BPI Science award.

In honor of the bank's 149th anniversary last year, a tree planting activity was held at the La Mesa Dam watershed by volunteer officers and employees.

The Foundation provides micro financing to support livelihood projects in various indigent communities. A total of P55 million has so far been made available.



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Introducing
fguonline.com
the country's FIRST fully secured and fully transactional insurance website

Make complete transactions over the internet - with fguonline.com

Customers can:
- buy motor and personal accident insurance
- get quotations
- submit applications
- make payments

FGU Business Partners can:
- view commission earnings
- confirm clients' coverage renewals

Plus, fguonline.com offers one of the best encryption systems available: VeriSign, a U.S. developed program that safeguards credit card transactions.

fguonline.com

FGU Insurance Corporation 16F, BPI Building,
Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, 1226 Makati City.
Tel. nos. 840-9427 • 840-9613

Insurance innovation, excellence and quality

THE SUCCESS of any business is often gauged on its longevity. To say that the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has attained success would be a gross understatement. Now celebrating its 150th year, BPI has managed to become the market leader year in and year out, thanks to its quality products and services, exceptional customer care and innovations that continue to become industry benchmarks. BPI continues the tradition of banking excellence as it forged the first steps toward bancassurance.

BPI has set another first in the banking industry when it merged with the Ayala Insurance Companies—Ayala Life Assurance Inc., Ayala Plans, Ayala Health Care Inc., FGU Insurance Corp. and Universal Reinsurance Corp. Collectively known as the BPI Insurance Companies, they will extend BPI's traditional product span into the insurance area, thereby heralding bancassurance in its most genuine form. Bancassurance for BPI offers powerful synergies as it creates innovative packages combining banking products with insurance products to offers its clients accessed through the bank's vast network of distribution channels.

Among the many pioneering products offered under the bancassurance format today is the Express Term Life Plus Insurance from Ayala Life Assurance Inc. Among its attractive features are its special, low premium rates exclusively for BPI credit cardholders. The Express Term Life Plus Insurance also eliminates the need for medical exams, provides guaranteed fixed premiums for five years, reimbursible hospital expenses and offers up to two million pesos worth of insurance coverage.

Other products are FGU Insurance Corporation's Express Auto Insurance and the Express Fire Insurance, which requires no fire inspections for pre-approved subdivisions. Available to all BPI clients, the products not only carry discounted rates but also flexible payment options that make it much easier for clients to pay their premiums. Plus, BPI cardholders enjoy the option to charge premiums on their card and use the Special Installment Plan on their BPI Express Credit or BPI MasterCard and avail of zero percent interest for three months.

Truly worthy of becoming BPI subsidiaries, these insurance companies have also come up with innovative insurance products and services that continue to revolutionize the local insurance industry.

Ayala Life recently launched its latest insurance products that best cater to the needs of the market. Aspire, Advance, Acquire, Achieve and Access are the products aimed at helping Filipino families live the privileged life. Furthermore, the company is tapping new distribution channels and redesigned its products and processes to enable it to intensify sales and marketing campaigns on multiple channels of distribution.

Last year, Ayala Life posted a 17 percent growth rate on its core business income of P1.2 billion, resulting from more aggressive sales and marketing activities aimed at increasing productivity and improving account persistency.

Renowned for its quality education and pension plans, Ayala Plan's GiftEd Plan is among the best in the industry while the Ayala Pension Plan is the preferred plan of those who wish to have a fruitful retirement. Last year, Ayala Plans increased its total collection by 37 percent from 1999 figures, making it one of the fastest growing pre-need companies in the country. This year, the company is set to bring customer service to a new level with the opening of its customer service hotline. Clients will only need to dial 753-7777 and a sales counselor will be sent to visit them.

Ayala Health Care is one of the major players in the local HMO industry and is focused on further strengthening its products and services. Ayala Health Care is set to focus on the growing HMO business as well as on its improved products and customer service that's sure to generate positive results in the coming years. With the granting of the license to operate by the Office for Standards and Regulations on Feb. 13, 1995, it became the first HMO to be officially recognized by the Department of Health (DOH).

Tracing its roots as early as 1986, the company has over a decade of experience in health care delivery system in the Philippines. To date; it has a vast network of 200 accredited hospitals with around 2,500 accredited doctors and specialists in various hospitals and clinics nationwide, and delivers a humane and efficient managed care services to over 600 corporate accounts with a total plan member base of 80,000. With innovative approaches to health management, as well as pioneering in other distribution channels like bancassurance, Ayala Health Care Inc. looks forward to a better influx of new businesses and a much stronger relation with existing clients in the years ahead.

One of the country's largest non-life insurance companies, FGU Insurance Corporation has a wealth of non-life insurance experience which started as early as 1913. Through the years, the company has built up a strong agency force which has been the biggest source of revenues for the company and has made FGU products and services available throughout the country.

Gearing up for even greater accessibility, FGU created another breakthrough when it launched the country's first fully transactional and fully secure insurance website called www.fguonline.com. Agents and clients are able to renew their fire businesses and secure motor car quotations online. Some innovative products, such as all-occasion personal accident greeting cards can also be purchased online. The website features FGU's quality insurance services like fire, motor, personal accident, liability and crime, marine and aviation, bonds and surety and engineering, which can be easily accessed at the click of a mouse.

Just like its mother company, the BPI Insurance Companies are posed to become a market leader in the years to come, with innovations and services that will undoubtedly make it worthy of its competitor's emulation and the public's trust.

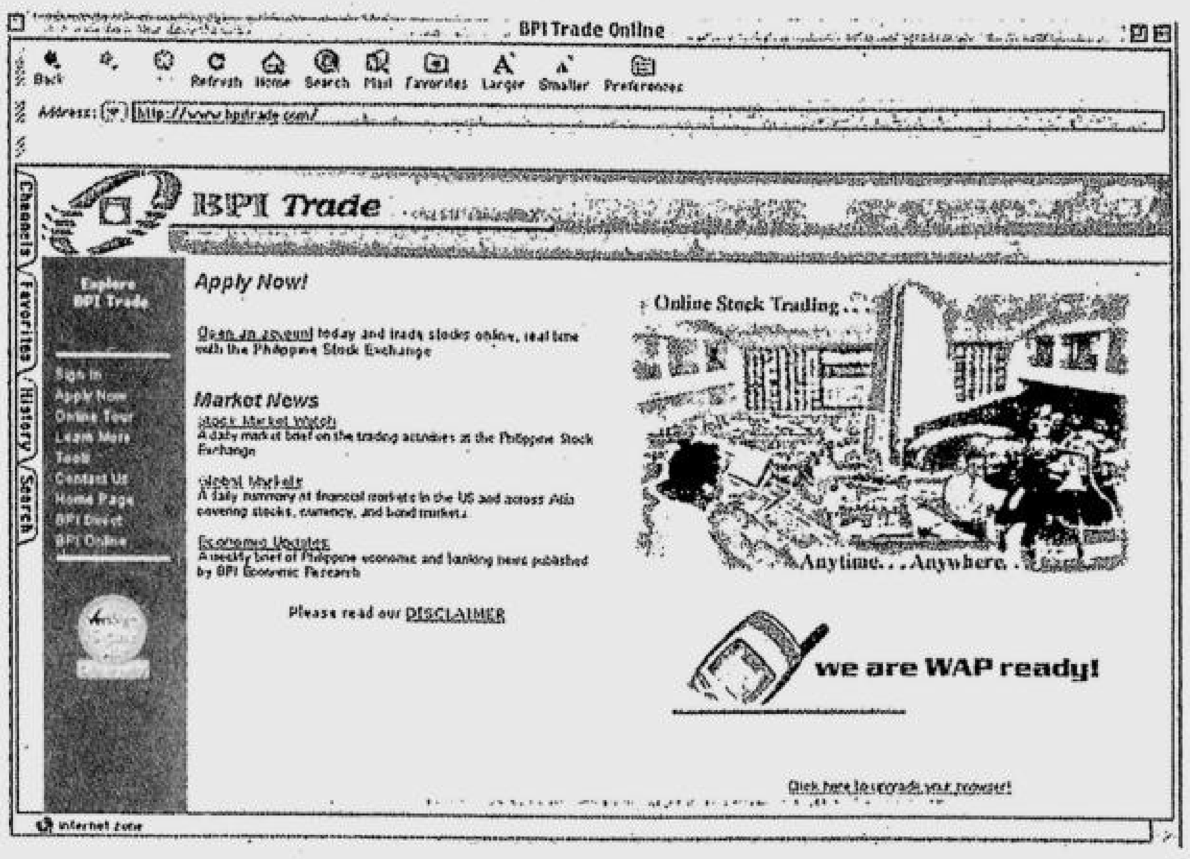
BPI Securities is top brokerage house for June

BPI Securities Corporation (BPI Sec) was the top stock brokerage house in the Philippine Stock Exchange for the month of June. Year-to-date June 2001, BPI Sec is ranked # 5 among the 156 active stock brokerage houses, the largest local brokerage house, with a total value transaction of P9.4 billion. This is a 147% increase compared to YTD June 2000 transaction value of P3.8 billion. It is one of the largest capitalized brokerage houses in the country, with a net worth of more that P200 million. For the full year 2000, BPI Sec ranked #7 with a total value transaction of P20 billion. BPI Sec ranked #1 in the months of July and October in the year 2000.

BPI Securities Corporation is a member of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). It is wholly owned by BPI Capital Corporation, which in turn is wholly owned by Bank of the Philippine Islands. As a major brokerage house, BPI Securities conducts business with the highest standard of professionalism. It strictly abides by the code of conduct for brokers promulgated by the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In an environment where business is dominated by foreign companies/institutions, BPI Sec continues to improve its services. It invests in state-of-the-art software programs that speed up transactions, confirmations, and other reportorial requirements. BPI Sec boasts of being the pioneer in internet trading with its on-line vehicle BPITrade. "Bpitrade .com" offers not only access to equity on-line trading but will soon give investors access to trade fixed income instruments.

BPI Sec caters mostly to institutional. corporate and high-net worth clients. Hewing closely to the BPI conservative management culture, it recommends investments mainly in blue chip companies with profitability projected over the long term. It bases its recommendations on timely and accurate fundamental and technical analysis made by its experienced research team.



Apply Now!

Open an account today and trade stocks online, real time with the Philippine Stock Exchange

Market News

Stock Market Watch
A daily market brief on the trading activities at the Philippine Stock Exchange

Global Markets
A daily summary of financial markets in the US and across Asia covering stocks, currency, and bond markets

Economic Updates
A weekly brief of Philippine economic and banking news published by BPI Economic Research

Please read our DISCLAIMER

Hurry, barely two more days of madness remain!

COME to BPI's "Fully Loaded Madness" at the Glorietta Activity Center from July 23 to August 2, 2001 and be part of our 150th Anniversary Special. Take advantage of fully loaded promos, prizes and surprises at the following booths:

1. Power of 3 booth – Express Teller's EPS, BPI Credit Cards and Express Cash

Get up to 70% off on purchases using BPI's 3 payment cards – Express Teller's EPS, BPI Credit Cards and Express Cash. You'll enjoy huge discounts and freebies as you visit these merchants at the Madness: Globe HandyPhone, Gift Gate, Coffee Republic, CA Com, Barbie, Remington USA, Sports House, Humor Post and Mobile One.

The Power of 3 promo extends to establishments outside Glorietta. There are over 150 merchants with more than 700 stores where you can get special discounts and giveaways by just using your BPI card from July 23 to Sept. 30, 2001

2. Emerging Business booth

The Emerging Business both will showcase our various internet banking services—Express Online, ExpressBills, WAP Banking, BPI Trade, ExpressLink, BPI Direct and BPI Payment Gateway. Those who will enroll will get a chance to win prizes, including a free BPI Quicken software.

3. Express Teller, Express Online and Express Phone Kiosk

Be the first to experience transacting at our fully-unmanned kiosk, featuring Express Teller, Express Online and Express Phone. Use the Express Phone booth to enroll in Check-Free Payments and you might be the lucky caller of the hour. At stake is a free Express Cash loaded with P200!

4. Consumer Loans booth

See the new Honda Civic on display at the Happy Family Auto Loan booth. If you have friends or relatives planning to buy a new car, tell them to check out the low interest rates on the new Honda Civic – an exclusive during the Madness!

Over at the Housing Loan booth, visitors can check out the free appliances being given away in the Happy Family Housing Loan "Easy Loan, Gifts to Own" promo

5. Insurance booth

FGU, Ayala Life, Ayala Plans and Ayala Health will be there to offer special rates on insurance plans, plus free gifts!

So mark the dates on your calendar—July 23 to August 2, 2001—and see you at the Glorietta!

Happy Family Auto Loan's Happy Indulgence promo

FOR the past two years, BPI Family Bank's Happy Family Auto Loan has rewarded our Metro Manila clients with free resort packages with our Outrageous Outdoors promo. This promo has been a huge success since it was launched in 1999, where BPI Family Bank gave qualified clients a free overnight stay with complimentary breakfast for four (4) in leading resorts. In our latest promo run, from March 15 to June 15, 2001, the Outrageous Outdoors, in its third outburst has spread out nationwide! We included our provincial clients and expanded our prize range to hotel/resorts in Subic, Cebu, Boracay, Davao, Bacolod, La Union, Batangas and Cagayan de Oro. These vacation packages were well received by clients who readily used their new vehicles to travel to the resorts during the summer break.

Despite the end of the summer months, BPI Family Bank is not yet through in pampering our auto loan clients. From the fun outdoors, we are taking our clients to the fine indoors, with our new promo, Incredible Indulgence.

This time, we are giving out a family luxury package for a family of four that will consist not only of an overnight stay in the county's finest hotels, but also include fine dining and complimentary breakfast for the family, in any one of the following premium hotels: Manila Diamond Hotel (Roxas Boulevard), Astoria Plaza (Ortigas Center), Legenda Hotel (Subic, Olongapo), Days Hotel (Tagaytay and Batangas), Waterfront Hotel (Lahug, Cebu), L'Fisher Hotel (Bacolod City), The Marco Polo (Davao City), Pryce Plaza (Cagayan de Oro City)

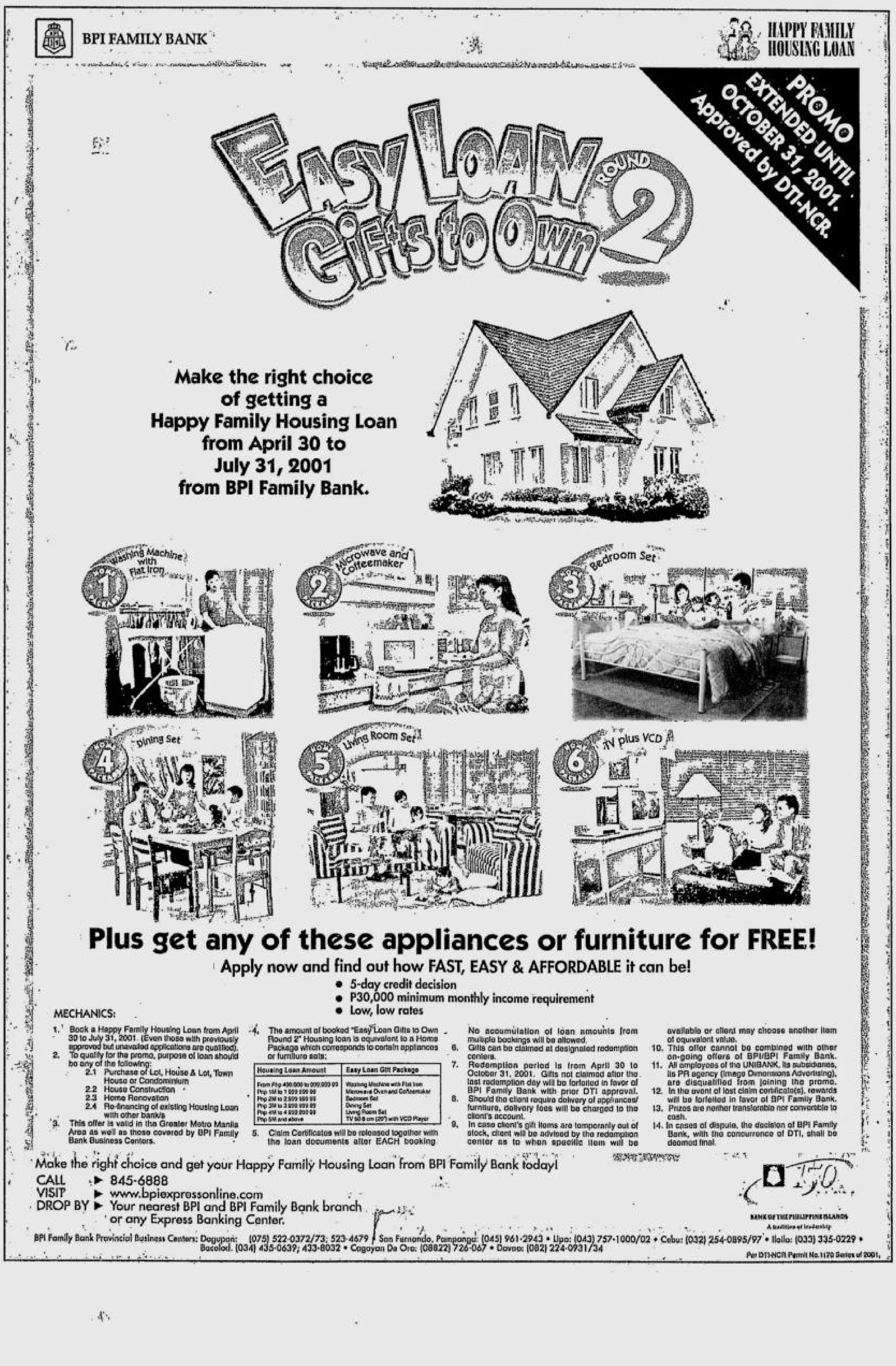
It's so easy to qualify! Clients may just apply at any BPI, BPI Family Bank branch nationwide, the nearest participating auto dealer or log on to www.bpidirect.com. If the click avails of Happy Family Auto Loan with a minimum loan amount of P400,000. From Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, 2001, he gets to choose a prize package from any one of the above partner hotels.

To make it more exciting, all Metro Manila clients will also get a free one year membership from the Carsavers Auto Club. Carsavers is an Emergency Roadside Assistance and Automotive Service Association that will provide the loaned vehicle with exclusive services such as 24-hour emergency roadside assistance, premium 15 percent discounts on Ziebart Tidy Car Paint protection/detailing services, unlimited body and underchassis washing services and unlimited vehicle safety check-up services.

Only BPI Family Bank Happy Family Auto Loan offers features that can out-perform other auto loans with its fast one-day credit decision, easy P30,000 monthly income requirement and affordable low, low interest rates!

The best auto loan package, the best luxury family package and the best car-care package, rolled into to one, with BPI Family Bank Happy Family Auto Loan.

Truly, an Incredible Indulgence!



BPI FAMILY BANK
HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN
PROMO EXTENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2001. Approved by DTI-NCR.
Easy Loan Gifts to Own Round 2
1 Washing Machine with Flat Iron
2 Microwave and Coffeemaker
3 Bedroom Set
4 Dining Set
5 Living Room Set
6 TV plus VCD
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Make the right choice of getting a Happy Family Housing Loan from April 30 to July 31, 2001 from BPI Family Bank.

Plus get any of these appliances or furniture for FREE!

Apply now and find out how FAST, EASY & AFFORDABLE it can be!

- 5-day credit decision
- P30,000 minimum monthly income requirement
- Low, low rates

MECHANICS:

1. Book a Happy Family Housing Loan from April 30 to July 31, 2001. (Even those with previously approved but unavailed applications are qualified).
2. To qualify for the promo, purpose of loan should be any of the following:
   - 2.1 Purchase of Lot, House & Lot, Town House or Condominium
   - 2.2 House Construction
   - 2.3 Home Renovation
   - 2.4 Re-financing of existing Housing Loan with other bank/s
3. This offer is valid in the Greater Metro Manila Area as well as those covered by BPI Family Bank Business Centers.
4. The amount of booked "Easy Loan Gifts to Own Round 2" Housing loan is equivalent to a Home Package which corresponds to certain appliances or furniture sets:

Housing Loan Amount	Easy Loan Gift Package
From Php 400,000 to 999,999.99	Washing Machine with Flat Iron
Php 1M to 1,999,999.99	Microwave Oven and Coffeemaker
Php 2M to 2,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
Php 3M to 3,999,999.99	Dining Set
Php 4M to 4,999,999.99	Living Room Set
Php 5M and above	TV 50.8 cm (20") with VCD Player

5. Claim Certificates will be released together with the loan documents after EACH booking. No accumulation of loan amounts from multiple bookings will be allowed.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption period is from April 30 to October 31, 2001. Gifts not claimed after the last redemption day will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances/furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other on-going offers of BPI/BPI Family Bank.
11. All employees of the UNIBANK, its subsidiaries, its PR agency (Image Dimensions Advertising), are disqualified from joining the promo.
12. In the event of lost claim certificate(s), rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
13. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
14. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

Make the right choice and get your Happy Family Housing Loan from BPI Family Bank today!

CALL ► 845-6888
VISIT ► www.bpiexpressonline.com
DROP BY ► Your nearest BPI and BPI Family Bank branch or any Express Banking Center.

BPI Family Bank Provincial Business Centers: Dagupan: (075) 522-0372/73; 523-4679 • San Fernando, Pampanga: (045) 961-2943 • Lipa: (043) 757-1000/02 • Cebu: (032) 254-0895/97 • Iloilo: (033) 335-0229 • Bacolod: (034) 435-0639; 433-8032 • Cagayan De Oro: (08822) 726-067 • Davao: (082) 224-0931/34

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1170 Series of 2001.

HAPPY FAMILY AUTO LOAN

BPI FAMILY BANK

BPI Family Bank

takes you

from the

FUN OUTDOORS

to the

FINE INDOORS

with

Happy Family Auto Loan

Incredible
Indulgence

Avail of a Happy Family Auto Loan and you'll automatically be entitled to
an Overnight Stay and Fine Dining for a family of 4 in a choice hotel.

Metro Manila clients also receive a
One-Year CARSAVERS Membership -- FREE!

CALL	**845-6777, 754-6744**
VISIT	**www.bpidirect.com**
DROP BY	**Your nearest BPI and BPI Family Bank branch or any Express Banking Center.**

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Here's how:

1. The Client simply visits the dealer of his choice, any BPI or BPI FAMILY BANK Branch, the BPI FAMILY BANK Head Office or BPI FAMILY BANK Business Centers and avail of a Happy Family Auto Loan from **August 1 to October 31, 2001.** (Application is subject to the bank's approval.)
2. To qualify for the promo, the minimum loan amount should be **₱400,000.00.**
3. Once a client avails of a Happy Family Auto Loan, he can choose from any of the following Incredible Indulgence Family Packages:
   * **Manila Diamond Hotel** (Roxas Boulevard)
   * **Astoria Plaza** (Ortigas Center)
   * **Days Hotel** (Tagaytay or Batangas)
   * **Legenda Hotel** (Subic, Olongapo)
   * **Waterfront Hotel** (Lahug, Cebu)
   * **L'Fisher Hotel** (Bacolod)
   * **The Marco Polo** (Davao)
   * **Pryce Plaza** (Cagayan de Oro)
4. The Incredible Indulgence Prize Package will be mailed directly to the client together with his loan documents.
5. All Metro Manila accounts qualified for the promo will also get a **FREE** one year membership to the CARSAVERS Auto Club.
6. All Prize Packages are transferable but not convertible to cash. However, CARSAVERS Auto Club membership is neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
7. Clients must avail of the Incredible Indulgence Packages only until **December 31, 2001.** Unclaimed packages will be declared void after this date.

In cooperation with 105.1 CROSSOVER

The Happy Family Auto Loan comes with these fine features:

Only 1 Day To Get A Credit Decision • Only ₱ 30,000 Monthly Income To Qualify • Low, Low Interest Rates

BPI Family Bank Provincial Business Centers: Dagupan: (075) 522-0372/73, 523-4679 • San Fernando, Pampanga; (045) 961-4672 • Lipa: (043) 757-1000/02 Cebu: (032) 254-0497, 255-0271
Iloilo: (033) 335-0230 • Bacolod: (034) 433-8033 • Cagayan De Oro: (08822) 726-067 • Davao: (082) 224-0931/34

See Flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2286 series of 2001